BUSINESS / B1

No reduction of water supply in Metro Manila, thanks to 'Paeng'

METRO / A17

6 cops probed for allegedly acting as bodyguards of Mark Jimenez

LIFESTYLE / C1

The Death Chronicles —thru books, songs, essays— is a celebration of life

ENTERTAINMENT / D1

TV's cool 'lolas' turn 1: Celia Rodriguez, Gloria Sevilla, Baby O'Brien, Bella Flores

Reject RP-Japan deal, int'l group tells Senate

By Blanche S. Rivera and Juliet Labog-Javellana

SAYING JAPAN'S MOTIVES WERE "HIGHLY suspect," an international monitoring group yesterday urged the Philippine Senate to reject a controversial economic deal with Japan unless toxic wastes were removed from the list of products that could be brought into this country.

REJECT RP, A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, November 1, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 326 P18 www.inq7.net

Palace sacks all Board of Nursing members

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Jerome Aning

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE Regulation Commission's Board of Nursing (BON) have been replaced by President Macapagal-Arroyo in an effort to banish any cloud of doubt on the integrity of the next nursing licensure examination scheduled in December.

PALACE, A7

Asean looks up to China

GMA urges reduced dependence on West

By Christine O. Avendaño

NANNING, CHINA—Southeast Asian nations are looking to China to reduce their trade dependency on Western markets, President Macapagal-Arroyo said here yesterday at a gathering of regional leaders.

Mrs Arroyo said this could be done through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-China Free Trade Agreement, a trading zone encompassing a third of the world's population. The agreement seeks to reduce and eliminate tariffs for a range of products.

"The Asean region represents a market of over half a billion people for Chinese exports. It is a supplier of much-needed resources," said the President, who is this year's chair of the Asean summit to be held in December in Cebu.

"In turn we—the Asean countries—can reduce our dependence for our exports on Western markets, such as the United States and Europe," she said.

Mrs Arroyo was speaking at the launch of the 2nd Asean-China Expo to promote economic links between China and Southeast Asia, with the other Asean leaders and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in attendance.

Protectionist voices have grown louder in the United States and Europe in recent years as China's trade surplus has grown and Beijing has taken only minimal measures to adjust its currency, which critics say is undervalued.

Wen highlighted the benefits of China's growing economic strength for Southeast Asia as he reaffirmed his nation's goal of increasing trade with the region by more than 50 percent over the next four years.

"We should firmly grasp the opportunity and work together to realize the objective of raising China-Asean trade to more than $200 billion by 2010," he said. The target, floated previously at regional gatherings, compares

ASEAN, A4

HORALITY PLAY IN REVERSE: On top of 3 tombstones at the Tagaytay cemetery in Malabon stand the wrestling statues of Lucifer and St. Michael the Archangel in their never-ending struggle for dominion over man. The inscription on one side of the sculpture explains how evil triumphs: "Man, help me fight evil, draw greed of money and power, the root of all evil." (Story on Page A4.)

Exorcist warns against seances, 'Spirit of Glass'

'I was warned about the devil'

By Cathy C. Yamsuan
Inquirer Libre

I HAD BEEN WARNED THAT SPIRIT-ing about the dead would not be a toss.

What I did not expect was how harrowing it would be. Total emotionally draining, and how different from ordinary seance conceptions.

For a week, I was beset by de-

I WAS WARNED, A4

By Cathy C. Yamsuan
Inquirer Libre

IT SOUNDS LIKE HARMLESS FUN and adventure, but playing the occult game called "Spirit of the Glass" can lead to dire consequences, including demonic possession.

The same goes for such occult practices as divination through tarot cards or a Ouija board. Even contacting the spirits of the dead through a seance is dangerous, and is actually forbidden in the Old Testament.

These warnings and more

EXORCIST, A4

A wake in Bacolod now on its 65th year

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—BEFORE HE died 65 years ago, he told his family he wanted his body to be preserved forever.

The family of Mauro E. Cordova, who owned the first funeral parlor here, has done what needs to be done to fulfill his wish.

When he died on 80 years old on July 23, 1941, his brother-in-law Aurelio Alisbo embalmed his body.

Alisbo used an embalming fluid that has allowed Mauro's family to take his body out every year on All Saints' Day for viewing at the family mausoleum at the Bacolod Cemetery here.

On Sunday, family members, as they have done over the past

A WAKE, A4

HERE LIES NEGATIVISM: Rumour's bar in Baguio City offers its patrons not only cocktails but a graveyard for their pet peeves.

Baguio bar buries negative thoughts for a fee

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE FEW SOULS who braved the rains of Typhoon "Paeng" on Monday night were drawn to a downtown bar to watch as employees staple cardboard tombstones to its walls.

Andy Singuian, owner of Rumour's bar, calls the tableau of tombstones a "wailing wall."

For P180, customers can buy space on the wall to put up their own cardboard tombstone and

BAGUIO, A11

THE BUSINESS OF DYING

Columbaries: Different way of going

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

MORE THAN A DECADE AF-ter the Catholic Church sanctioned cremation, columbaries are gaining popularity in the Philippines.

From the Latin word "columbarium" (literally dove), a columbary was originally a pigeon house. Today, it also refers to a depository of cremated remains, which ashes of the departed contained in urns are placed inside vaults and sealed with marble slabs.

"The Church, traditionally, always maintained a place where they honor the memory of their dead," says Roland Redoble, former member of the Augustinian movement and now chief executive officer of the Columbary of Hope, Nilo de Cuba in Quezon City.

He adds that if one were to dig in an old church's backyard, one would most likely

COLUMBARIES, A15

SPECIAL REPORT

Is it cheaper to live or die?

By Margie Quiroga-Espino
(First of two parts)

NEXT TIME SOMEBODY TELLS you he wants to die—ask him first: Do you have the money to pay for the high cost of dying?

If he does not, tell him it will cost less for him to live.

Dying is expensive. And the expense does not include the hospitalization and medical bills of the deceased.

No wonder the business of dying is alive and doing very well.

With roughly 480,000 deaths in the Philippines a year, the business of providing services for the dead is worth at least some P2.4 billion annually, with the minimum cost of a funeral service at P5,000. Another P400 million is spent yearly on burials, considering that the cost for a plot in a public cemetery starts at P1,000.

But as the wealthy now have varied options, the cost can easily double.

La Funeraria Paz Inc. president Melchor G. Ocampo admits the funeral service business can be lucrative. He is not aware of funeral homes that have closed shop—only those that have expanded.

The reason is simple: The market is always there because death is inevitable.

Funeraria Paz, founded in the 1900s, is the oldest funeral parlor or mortuary in the country. It started with a small chapel at the corner of Calle Paz (now C.M. Recto) and Calle Almazara (now P. Torres).

Peñuela del Rosario envi-

SLIDE, A10

LINEA: 5-STAR HOTEL: The Sandalwood on Ayuvela Avenue.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2000

WEATHER FORECAST

SYNOPSIS: Advisory Northern Luzon and the western section of Northern and Central Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with rain showers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated thunderstorms and localized flooding.

Source: PAGASA

Second FRONTPAGE

Palace to House allies: Go slow on Con-Ass

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

WHILE IT WILL SUPPORT ANY MODE TO BRING about Charter change, Malacañang has advised its allies in the House of Representatives to be careful about taking the constituent assembly (Con-Ass) route without the participation of the Senate.

Executive Secretary Edwardo Ermita said the defeat of the people's initiative in the Supreme Court should be a lesson to proponents of the so-called Plan B—the constituent assembly—which the House majority reportedly plans to pursue after the SC rejection of the people's initiative petition.

"What happened with the offer of Digi and Sigaw ng Bayan — should serve as a good lesson for those in Congress who are proponents of (the) constituent assembly to make a careful study before they make the final plunge into whatever ideas they have to push or whatever activities they will undertake," Ermita said in a Palace briefing.

Ermita said President Macapagal-Arroyo would support a constituent assembly if the Senate is able to overcome the legal obstacles that are expected to be raised by the senators.

The House majority believes that the lower chamber can do it alone, without the Senate, in the convening of a constituent assembly that would approve constitutional changes.

Political reform

"Of course the President will support that mode, but it is the move of Congress. It is a constitutional convention, so let it. But the idea is to achieve the objective—major political reform through Charter change," Ermita said.

In the face of the looming battle on the constituent assembly issue, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile called on the President to abandon Charter change to spare the country from further division and her administration from another defeat in the judiciary.

"The decision in the governance are all too clear. The Executive, the House and the armed services, the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police on one side, and the judiciary and the Senate on the other. This has never happened before. It's not healthy," Enrile said in a statement.

"On this will not eliminate the division, on the contrary it will exacerbate it. The time to heal has come. We can't go on with this kind of endless confrontations. And only the President can lead the way," he said.

Two Charter change resolutions will be taken up by the House when Congress resumes sessions on Nov. 6.

The resolutions authored by Representatives Constantino Jaraula and Prospero Pichay propose the convening of Congress, without the Senate, into a constituent assembly to amend the Charter and shift to a parliamentary system through the vote of 100, or three-fourths or all the members of the House.

The Senate is expected to take the issue to the Supreme Court, arguing that the House and the Senate must vote separately when making amendments to or revisions of the Charter.

Ermita said the issue of whether the House and the Senate should vote jointly or separately was for lawmakers and constitutionalists to address.

But the executive secretary who was a congressman before joining the Cabinet said he personally preferred the participation of the Senate to avoid any legal complications.

Legal battle

Opposition Sen. Franklin Drilon said the legal battle would start in the Comelec. He said the Senate would file an opposition once the House asks the Comelec to conduct a plebiscite on the amendments approved by a "less-than-legal" constituent assembly.

"Whatever resolution the Comelec will have will be brought to the Supreme Court," he said.

"If the House acts in a manner that constitutes grave abuse of discretion such as convening a self-styled constituent assembly to propose amendments without the Senate, then the Supreme Court is an appropriate case brought before it is duly bound to resolve this issue," said Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan.

Deputy Majority Leader Rodolfo Mitra (Mrs. regn) Cha-cha proponents in the House to go on a "chaos offensive" to sway the senators.

"The key is to convince Cha-cha-nary, and not to ignore them. Everybody is saying that the Senate is a hopeless case, but nobody is doing the counting," Mitra said.

Changes to Charter were printed–Sigaw

By Norman Bordadora

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS did publish hundreds of thousands of copies of the proposed Charter changes for dissemination in the public during the signature-gathering stage of the people's initiative campaign, members of Sigaw ng Bayan spokespersons said.

This did not mean, however, that the governors and mayors used government funds for what was a private endeavor, as alleged by opponents of the people's initiative, particularly the camp of deposed President Joseph Estrada, said Sigaw spokespersons Raul Lambino.

"That's highly speculative. They have their own personal resources. These accusations are baseless," Lambino said in a radio roundtable discussion on announcements yesterday.

Lambino suggested that those accusing the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines of misspending should check the financial expenditures of the local governments concerned.

But he said the expenditures of governors and congressmen who opposed the people's initiative should also be examined as public funds could have been used in the anti-Cha-cha campaign.

Ulep, the body that brings together all elected local officials, is the Sigaw ng Bayan's partner organization in the campaign for Charter change by way of as people's initiative.

Lambino said he himself spent his own funds for the printing of 100,000 copies of the proposed amendments for dissemination during consultations in the signature-gathering campaign.

Presenting 6.3 million signatures that they had gathered for a people's initiative, Ulep and Sigaw petitioned the Commission on Elections to have the power to call a plebiscite to hold a referendum on their proposed constitutional amendments. After the Comelec denied the petition, the proponents brought it to the Supreme Court, which similarly junked it last week.

At the same roundtable discussion, Jose Montes, who headed the Constitutive Commission for constitutional amendments, declared the Supreme Court decision on the people's initiative as the 6.3 million signatories were not given a chance to read the proposed changes before signing.

"It's stupid to require everybody to have read the proposed changes before signing," said Montes, a law professor at the University of the Philippines.

www.whirlpool.com.ph

THE CONQUEST OF SPACE

Your prayers have finally been answered. Say goodbye to your storage woes with #WORLWIDE CONQUEST. It's functionally big enough to accommodate big food whether in quantity or size. It even has a fast cooling feature that guarantees round the clock freshness.

Now you don't have to ask for miracles.
The CONQUEST definitely does the job.

Stainless Steel Stainless Look

Whirlpool
SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

Palace: All's well with JDV and Cabinet

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Dona Pazzibugan

THERE IS NO CABINET REVOLUTIONARY headed by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. is not on the way out and Malacañang did not have a falling out with chief Charter change advocate Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Executive Secretary Edwardo Ermita yesterday denied reports Cabinet members were quarreling and playing each other's enemy following the defeat of the Palace-backed people's initiative in the Supreme Court.

He also denied that Malacañang planned to drag De Venecia to get the senators' support on the constituent assembly mode of amending the Constitution.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor and Presidential Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio earlier confirmed there was a "misunderstanding" between Cruz and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and other Cabinet members over the alleged role of the Villarosa & Integrajes law office in the SC's 8-7 decision junking the people's initiative.

The Fleix-sworn Cruz and Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, who penned the strongly worded SC decision, are members.

"Some people would just like to inject intrigue. There's no rift in the Cabinet. We're all gentlemen. We're all friends. There is no rift because everyone is for Charter change," Ermita said in a press briefing.

He added that Cruz still enjoyed the President's confidence.

Ermita also denied he was one of those Cabinet members who warned Cruz not ...

"No, no, no, no. You might even see me holding hands [with him]," he quipped.

Ermita said he did not know what led Cruz to think that three colleagues wanted him out, adding that only the media could find The Time is being behind the SC decision.

GMA names new MTRCB members

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS APpointed new members of the Movie Television Review and Classification Board upon the nominee, Executive Secretary Edwardo Ermita said yesterday.

Samuel Austero as chair and vice chair were Cecile Guidote-Alvarez. the President's nominee for culture and the arts, and Prescilla Supnet-Asis, federation's Rowena, respectively, with Bernardo Carandang, Jesus Lacson and Michael Patrick Lopez as members.

The appointments are expected to handle the controversy over the MTRCB decision not to allow the television showing of a documentary on the life of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Ermita also announced that Gilda Reparations had been appointed president and chief executive officer of the Land Bank of the Philippines. Juliet Labog-Javellana

SC rules graft court can try AFP-RSBS execs

By Lala B. Sideretis

THE SUPREME COURT HAS AFFIRMED that the Sandiganbayan has jurisdiction over the Retirement Servicemen and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS), paving the way for the prosecution of those of its officers for graft and corruption.

In its decision released on Tuesday, the Supreme Court declared the petition of three AFP-RSBS officers to junk the antigraft court's resolution affirming its authority to prosecute them.

Brigadiers Julius Abuga, Mercedes Aranjo-Bello and Manuel Imperio are charged with violating the Antigraft and Corrupt Practices Act before the Sandiganbayan for the alleged irregular purchase of four lots in Tarlac, Batangas.

Up to P7.8 billion in questionable real estate investments, among others or similar deals, were said to have led to the collapse of AFP-RSBS, the agency that collects and manages the pension fund of over of thousands of Filipino soldiers.

The petitioners had contended that the AFP-RSBS was a private entity and that they were therefore exempt from the Sandiganbayan's jurisdiction.

Abuga was head of the AFP-RSBS's legal office when one of the questioned lots was purchased, while Bello, then a public superintendent, succeeded Abuga and purchased three other lots. Imperio was the chief of the AFP-RSBS documentation office.

In its decision, the high court said it had already ruled in other cases that the AFP-RSBS was a government entity and that its funds were public in character and its operations were imbued with public interest.

The high tribunal found no merit in the petitioners' claim that the Sandiganbayan could not prosecute them because their positions were not included in the list of officers over which the country's graft court had jurisdiction. The list included executive branch officials with the rank of regional director or higher and presidents, directors and trustees or managers of government-owned and -controlled corporations, state universities and educational institutions or foundations.

According to the Supreme Court, Abuga and Bello had the corresponding rank of vice president, while Imperio had the corresponding rank of assistant vice president... positions which, while not on the list, were even higher than the "managers" over which the Sandiganbayan has jurisdiction.

"In sum, the Sandiganbayan correctly ruled that the AFP-RSBS is a government-owned and -controlled corporation and that it has jurisdiction over the petitioners," the Supreme Court declared.

The government announced that the AFP-RSBS will be deactivated at the end of the year and will be replaced by a new pension fund to be run by "professional managers." The pensions of the soldiers are currently being shouldered by the national government.

'I had been warned writing about the devil would be far from easy'

9 strange deaths
associated with Ouija boards

Fortunately for us, very few people have died playing with Ouija boards. Only nine deaths have been associated with the game, and in all of these cases, the victims were already suffering from mental illness.

Two years ago, my father-in-law suffered a high fever that disappeared in the morning.

I experienced three near-misses with vehicles that appeared out of nowhere on my way to interview the exorcist-priest.

And when I finally got to the book launch, I learned that a "man in black" had told the priest at the ceremony gate that the interview was cancelled because "the lecturer reporter is not coming."

Fr. Aldo Stefanile, a friend and parish priest of the Sacrament of Our Lord Jesus the JHSEP), warned me before making the many an encounter Fr. Jose Francisco Syquia (but this devil would do his best to discourage me.

"What you will be doing is not an ordinary news report. You will be dealing with evil deeds of the devil. That is a perilous mission and few will like that," Stefanile said.

Depression

My depression started in the afternoon. I told the Inquirer newsdesk of my plan to cover Syquia's lecture at the Jesus the Divine Healer Parish in Tiliaman Village, Pasubuquet City.

I called my editor on time, thinking it might be postponed. At present (1) delivered my baby on 24-hour medical duty.

But my doctor said that if it were postpartum depression, it should have begun two months after delivery at the latest.

"I will not prescribe anything to you, but maybe you can try counseling first. Why not see a priest?" the lady doctor suggested.

Initially, I was clueless about the connection between my depression and my plans to do a story on the exorcist.

I listened to Inquirer lectures on Oct. 14, for I needed notes detailed enough that I could let him on Oct. 18, a Wednesday.

In the wee hours of Wednesday morning, my baby had a 39-degree fever, which I found odd because she had just finished four bottles of multivitamin-fair enough.

I was about to leave at 6 a.m., so I must stood with the interview.

Going to San Carlos Seminary, my vehicle nearly collided with three separate vehicles in three different places in Makati.

When I arrived, the seminary guard gave me a quizzical look but showed me to Syquia's office for the talks.

Jing de los Reyes, the priest's secretary, later told me about the "man in black" who did not identify himself and who disappeared as suddenly as he came.

Weird feeling

Right after my interview with Syquia I had a weird and unsettling but appointed my depression.

I phoned two priest-friends to help in the Makati area, hoping they could counsel me, both were unavailable.

I proceeded to the office nearing a quiet research, and managed to write two stories based on the interview with Syquia for Inquirer Lifestyle before calling it a day at 10 p.m. Only then did I feel I deserved my confession. It was an impulsive move on my part. Still it would be up to me mind.

It was then that the priest gave me the warning.

After receiving the list of Communion before the Mass ends, I felt a heavy weight literally lift off my shoulders. I wept in sheer relief.

Still, my baby had another bout of high fever that night, which again disappeared the following morning.

Prayer of Deliverance

I called Stefanile, who suggested that I recite the Prayer of Deliverance and ask for the protection of St. Michael, the archangel who fought Lucifer.

I immediately headed my three children to the Jesus the Divine Healer Parish Adoration Chapel, recited the prayer, and sprinkled holy water over them and myself. Not satisfied, I did the same with their names.

Until dawn my brother went to the chapel.

My children now were blessed. St. Benedict crosses, the rosary and in exorcisms, on their chests.

I also went home all the time, but this needs my blessing.

Before this experience, I prayed for many daily.

Maybe I was overly harsh, after all, was asking St. Michael, Mama Mary and the holy angels to protect my family.

Exorcist warns against seances, 'Spirit of Glass'

9 strange deaths
associated with Ouija boards

were cited by Fr. Jose Francisco Syquia, director of the Archdiocesan of Manila Office of Exorcists, during a recent interview at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati City.

Syquia is an exorcist—i.e. priest who does battle with fallen angels who possess human beings.

"But we never choose exorcists, but that an exorcist is simply a priest who the Lord wants to be instrument in order to liberate victims from the clutches of Satan's subordinates' activities," Syquia told the Inquirer.

As he declares in "Ritoritus Exorcismus" (the Roman Ritual and the Occult), "for recently published book, "on his own, the exorcist is nothing."

Deluding themselves

Mother God, the holy angels and saints of the dead are real—not products like Spirit of the Glass or email messages to the living, Syquia said.

Players of occult games cannot control or screen the spirit that takes them, and they delude themselves if they expect to receive only "good spirits" or the spirits of their relatives, he said.

He added that prayer remained the easiest and most direct way to talk to God and seek His guidance and the protection of guardian angels.

"When a person dies, his/her soul goes either to heaven, hell or purgatory," Syquia said.

Thus, he said, calls for entering a place or other supernatural objects and entities almost all of which are once could not be considered benevolent or holy.

According to Syquia, Spirit of the Ghost is "an occult means to get in touch with fallen angels."

And fallen angels or evil spirits "will take the opportunity" if someone "invokes" them through occult games and practices.

"Responsible if you're 'open' or have psychic abilities, they can latch onto you, or obsess the weakest link among the players and harass that person," he said.

Roaming the earth

Seances also said playing games until evil spirits or engaging in occult practices always produce a witchcraft.

In extreme cases, he said, an evil spirit could possess a person who had mentally accepted his/her presence.

Quoting Pedro Fit, the famous "priest of the exposure," Syquia said evil spirits were constantly roaming the earth, looking for persons to conquer.

"Father Fit said that if you see only one evil spirit, there are so many that they can blacken the sky," he said.

In his book, Syquia cites a young woman named Maria who engaged in spiritism to cool of her three Age practice before seances to get the movement and returning to the Catholic faith.

"Maria acted that people would come to contact loved ones who had passed away. But what they didn't know was that they were actually calling upon demonic spirits," Syquia said.

He quoted Maria as saying: "The demons would play whatever roles they were asked to—relatives, spirit guides, familiar people."

Demonic possession

Syquia's book presents numerous cases in the cases of demonic possession.

At one point, he quotes St. Gabriele Amorth, chief exorcist of the Diocese of Rome, warning that "the souls of the dead who are present during seances or who are present in living bodies to torture them are none other than demons."

The St. James cite reminders that the Old Testament contains passages that were against conjuring spirits and souls of the dead (Leviticus 19:31, Lev 20:6, Isaiah 8:19-20).

Syquia's office, created only in February, is now handling 21 cases of various degrees of demonic possession, given opposition by evil spirits and intimidation or hauntings.

Fifteen other potential cases are being considered pending counter-requirements, he said.

Syquia's book presents numerous cases in the cases of demonic possession.

At one point, he quotes St. Gabriele Amorth, chief exorcist of the Diocese of Rome, warning that "the souls of the dead who are present during seances or who are present in living bodies to torture them are none other than demons."

The St. James cite reminders that the Old Testament contains passages that were against conjuring spirits and souls of the dead (Leviticus 19:31, Lev 20:6, Isaiah 8:19-20).

Syquia's office, created only in February, is now handling 21 cases of various degrees of demonic possession, given opposition by evil spirits and intimidation or hauntings.

Fifteen other potential cases are being considered pending counter-requirements, he said.

Syquia's book presents numerous cases in the cases of demonic possession.

At one point, he quotes St. Gabriele Amorth, chief exorcist of the Diocese of Rome, warning that "the souls of the dead who are present during seances or who are present in living bodies to torture them are none other than demons."

The St. James cite reminders that the Old Testament contains passages that were against conjuring spirits and souls of the dead (Leviticus 19:31, Lev 20:6, Isaiah 8:19-20).

Syquia's office, created only in February, is now handling 21 cases of various degrees of demonic possession, given opposition by evil spirits and intimidation or hauntings.

Fifteen other potential cases are being considered pending counter-requirements, he said.

FR. FRANCISCO SYQUIA: Mother God, the holy angels and the souls of the dead are real—not products like the game "Spirit of the Ghost" or email messages to the living. Players of occult games cannot control or screen the spirit that joins them. JOVEN GONZALES

Exorcist, the movie

"The general perception of demonic possession is usually derived from the movies.

In "The Exorcist," for example, a 9-year-old girl possessed by an evil spirit opened her mouth, breathed blasphemy and performed unnatural acts.

But while the movie was based on a true story, cases of fantastic and unrelated possession by an evil spirit were not follow this "formula," Syquia said.

He said evil spirits could initially present themselves as "angels of light" or "spirit guides," such as saying how huge their powers.

Only after a person has received significant favors and has become deeply involved with a spirit does it show its true self, Syquia said, adding:

"There may be threats from the evil spirit if the person does not obey what it wants. It controls his/her personal decisions; it can order a person to receive a certain prayer that is not holy.

"Then the spirit starts to control the person's life, he will engage with the person's will, and it starts to possess the person."

There are tangible signs, he said. "First, the person loses weight, finds even the spirit, and eventually finds the presence of this spirit inside him/her."

In a lecture held recently at the Jesus the Divine Healer Parish in Pasubuquet City, Syquia warned against asking questions to exorcise evil spirits or to administer relief from unexplainable illnesses.

No hope of heaven

Syquia said he/she/it has driven to hell possess everything from disabled vessels because they had no divine authority to drive away evil spirits.

But only do evil spirits insist on possessing the living, despite the continuous efforts of Catholic exorcists?

Said Syquia: "Remember that fallen angels have no hope of entering the kingdom of heaven. They are angry at us because God loves us and the time will come when we will join the Father in heaven."

"Possession is like an addiction. The evil one will continue to try to manifest himself even if he knows he will lose in the end."

Fallen angels have a strong presence in the Philippines, particularly because the culture manifests a strong sense of "folk religiosity," Syquia noted.

Indeed, in this day and age, many Filipinos consult Satanic others before deciding on crucial matters, such as starting a business, getting married or getting elected.

It is possible that fortune tellers are aided by demons "spirits guides" that tell Satanic certain details about clients, Syquia said.

But although "spirits can make predictions, only God knows the future," he said.

Animism

In certain parts of the country, animism for the worship or recognition of the power of objects of nature such as rivers, mountains and caves) is still practiced.

Indeed, it is no secret that modern-day Filipinos even worship almost abominable like shrunk skeletons, dying and the like.

But answers are not the answer, Syquia said. "Answers do not call upon God and the angels. They only confirm that one spirits to do for sure others all or need to do a citizen our guardian angels."

Angels waiting

"The holy angels are just waiting for us to call on them and ask their help—and this for us to do the will of God."

Still, there are cases where some of the dead manifest themselves to console loved ones, such as during their birthday or death anniversary.

"The fallen souls in purgatory to manifest themselves to the living so that they gain the needed prayers, sacrifices and indulgences in order heaven," Syquia says in his book.

In these instances, the souls specifically ask the living to pray to God so they can enter heaven, he says, adding that they will never encourage the living to pray to other members to unholy entities.

A wake in Bacolod now on its 65th year

9 strange deaths
associated with Ouija boards

Relatives, kin and devoted the body in a new suit of pajamas and socks to dress for the second viewing, said Bacolod City Councilor Candino Alfaro, Mateo's nephew.

The wounded's family owns the Alfaro Funeral Chapels, which used to be Funeraria Segovia that Lolo Mateo founded.

Change of clothes yearly

The family does not spend much to memorize Lolo Mateo's body. What the family does is change both the body using alcohol and change the pajamas once a year, a few days before All Souls' Day, according to Alfaro.

The body used to lie on a bed with a mattress, pillows and a blanket but the glass enclosure broke, the councilor said.

The family clothed two glass for body to comfort after rain entered the glass enclosure.

Intact

Lolo Mateo's dentures, which had gold components, were stolen when thieves broke into the room to breaking in glass door.

Although the body has shrunk and its color has turned brown, like dull wood, it is still intact, including the hair, nails and face, according to Alfaro.

Because Lolo Mateo wanted his body to be preserved forever, he told his sons immediately. He had even told us the bed inside the stone cubicle to rest it, according to Alfaro.

He came from a middle-class family but Candereon an old man. In name in the city. Lolo Mateo still has two living daughters and numerous grandchildren.

Reject RP-Japan 'toxic' deal, int'l group tells Senate

9 strange deaths
associated with Ouija boards

The Ob-based Basel Action Network (BAN) made the appeal in Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita referred a memo addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi over the ratification of a plan by the Department of Foreign Affairs to submit the economic agreement to the Senate for ratification.

Ermita claimed the accord was not in effect but did not explain how.

BAN, based in Seattle, is a network of environmental activists that monitor compliance with the Basel Convention banning dumping of toxic wastes in Third World countries.

Calls have also been made in the Senate for hearings on the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) for having articles by environmentalists that in exchange for Filipino workers' exports, the Philippines would become Japan's dump.

'Philosoling, Inc'

In its strongly worded statement, BAN also chided the Philippine government for "apparently" that the ratification of waiver to the text's reduction program of the JPEPA was a mere technicality, saying this was "misleading at best and outright lies at worst."

"The government of the Philippines has been less than truthful about the significance of the inclusion of waste trade liberalization provisions in the JPEPA," BAN said.

The news release signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi over the sidelines of the Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki, Finland on Sept. 9.

BAN said Japan's recent pronouncement that it was committed to strictly enforce import-export controls to ensure that "legal" is misleading."

Wastes also in China

BAN claimed it was "well-known" that Japan had an intention of ratifying the 1995 amendment to the Basel Convention.

The network said that despite giving its assurance to the Basel amendment, Japan was still dumping its waste on countries like China.

Japan has also been strongly opposing the Basel Convention's restrictions on waste-dumping countries carrying waste, arguing that the Basel Convention did not cover ships containing waste, BAN said.

BAN issued its statement of concern over the JPEPA as it leaves Tokyo on its visit. The statement was released to Philippine media by the local environmental group Ecowaste Coalition.

"Japan, being the leading country stonewalling the Basel Convention's obligations on various treaties, has highly negative motives even in the JPEPA," BAN said.

Free trade in waste

"At first, the established laws designed to ease its free trade in wastes are under attack in these hard-won reductions for waste based in the agreement. Japan must be taken immediately to remove the provisions of the agreement until all of the wastes are removed from the agreement," the group said.

It said, "Both the Philippine and Japanese Senates and Diet must refuse to ratify the agreement in the form it is now and expunged from tariff reduction provisions."

The Japanese Embassy in Manila said in a statement the other day that "Japan wishes to be the most understanding" that Japan would welcome increased investments in the Philippines.

The embassy said Japan had been enhancing safer exports to... post consul, "which does not allow any export of toxic and hazardous wastes to another country including the Philippines, unless the government of such a country approves such export."

Left unsaid

BAN coordinator Jim Puckett said the Japanese Embassy's pronouncements were misleading and "were willing to what it does not say."

He said that while Japan consulted to the strict enforcement of import and export controls law, it did not say that it was willing to remove the language eliminating the tariff on waste and that it was not willing to stop exporting wastes of any kind to developing countries.

"The deal is the JPEPA is a treaty that could well merge the national laws of the Philippines ... Japan's refusal to eliminate this language and remove waste trade to developing countries speaks volumes," Puckett said.

BAN said in its statement that treaties, once ratified, become the equivalent of national law, and that parties to treaties should have the power to prevent conflicts between treaties and national laws.

"The fact begs the question as to why the wastes were included in the JPEPA at all. There is no compelling reason ... so as why these wastes must be included in the agreement if they are in fact to conflict or irrelevant," it said.

Memo to GMA

In his memo to Macapagal-Arroyo, Gen. 21, Ermita said: "JPEPA covers issues beyond the WTO. But after the date in which the governments of the parties exchange diplomatic notes informing each other that the necessary legal procedures have been completed."

The memo said that the Department of Trade and Industry, the Bureau of Customs, National Economic Development Authority, Intellectual Property Organization, Department of Budget and Management, Tariff Commission and Department of Justice "have concurred with the ratification."

The memo added that with JPEPA's entry into force, about 98 percent of Philippine exports to Japan will be duty-free, while both parties shall eliminate the tariffs on almost all industrial goods within 10 years from the date of the entry into force.

Access to the Japanese market of 98 service providers will be enhanced, and mutual recognition agreements will facilitate movement of professionals, such as nurses, it said.

"Investments in the Philippines will be guaranteed," the memo said.

"A formal arrangement for the temporary entry and stay of natural persons engaged in business activities" will also be established, it said.

"Philippine goods will enjoy preferential access to the Japanese market," it said.

Ermita said reporters he still needed to "verify" from the President whether the trade pact needed ratification by the Senate.

No review ordered

Ermita denied Malacañang had ordered a review of the agreement and said the agreement was ready for signing.

"It is not true that there is any such directive to review the JPEPA. Remember it is taking effect 30 (days) after its signing which is from Sept. 9 to Oct. 9 so it's very effective, so I have no knowledge of a review (ordered by the President)," Ermita said.

Sen. Alfredo Lim, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, said other senators have said the trade pact is so wrong that must be ratified by the Senate before it can take effect.

"Even if it is signed, it has to go through, but I think as you said it has to be submitted (for ratification), otherwise the Senate will create a hell," Ermita said in a press briefing.

He also said, "Anything that's against the law, I don't think will be allowed, it is as provided in JPEPA. We have the environmental law ... We cannot violate the provisions of our environmental law."

Floods remain even after Typhoon 'Paeng' exits

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 1, 2006:
All Saints' Day

1st Reading:	Rev 7:2-4, 9-14
2nd Reading:	1 Jn 3:1-3
Gospel:	Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He sat down and his disciples gathered around him. Then he spoke and began to teach them:

"Blessed are those who recognize in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the gentle, they shall possess the land.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.

Blessed are those with a pure heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are those who work for peace, they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you, when people insult you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you because you are my followers. Be glad and joyful, for a great reward is kept for you in God. That is how the people persecuted the prophets who lived before you."

Commentary

We say here the citizens of Asia, as God would call his people to bring into heaven all those saved souls and an impossible number to count to stand before the throne of the Lord of final love of their cross. With the angels, they cry aloud in one to God and worship together. And some stood out there who endured persecution, cost, being murdered, and here when mailed in the blood of the Lamb. We are God's own children, John, in heaven and always, in death and yet are the sin arms of that we will be! But we must gently sacrifice so that we can be just as Christ! We are the saints—no, not in fact, but!

(Sheldon Publications, Inc., 8 Marconi St., Epifanio de los Santos Ave., Cubao, Quezon City, Tel. 911-4140 to 42, Fax 911-4143, Email: sales@pcp.org.ph, Website: http://www.pcp.org.ph) Current Publications List / Click here to order your copy/copies of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

By the Inquirer Northern and Central Luzon bureaus, Blanche S. Rivera and Philip C. Tubeza in Manila

EAGAR, ISABELA—PEERLESS MARURI said for wife. Florina, cooked latest results on their roof yesterday as flood water continued to submerge houses in riverside villages of Cauayan and here.

Maruri's son was drawn to his troubles in Cauayan, one of the 30 villages submerged in floodwaters spawned by rains that accompanied Typhoon "Paeng."

In total, the worst has eaten in 48 hours. Day today as heavy torrential monsoon clouds, the last supply-plows to hit the Philippines in three years, heads toward eastern Vietnam, after leaving at least 14 dead in landslides and flooding in southern Luzon.

Causing maximum transport winds of 120 kilometers per hour and gusts of 160 kph, Paeng picked up strength again not ruled Cambodia yesterday but was no longer a threat to any part of western Luzon, the weather bureau said.

People spending the day at the evacuation, however, were still advised to bring umbrellas, boots and rain gear as corrective activity—in the morning of storm and cold winds—could trigger rain showers all over Luzon, including Metro Manila, in the late afternoon.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) also continued to warn against sea travel as the southwest monsoon enhanced by southern Luzon remained rough.

Isabela, Cagayan

Reports from the provincial social welfare office said the houses of at least 1,800 families in Eagar were destroyed.

Danilo Tumamao, provincial agriculturist, said rice and corn crops damage in Isabela had reached P11.8 million while the fishery sector reported initial damage of P1.95 million.

Isabela Rep. Edcel Uy yesterday appealed for government help to secure food and to transport 30 injured people to a hospital.

"We immediately need choppers to bring food supply to Dinapigue and up. BUSO wounded people to the hospital," said Uy.

In Cagayan, police said a boat carrying 17 passengers and crew was reported missing in Claveria town on Oct. 29.

At least 86 villages in Lasam, Tuao, Alcala, Gattaran, Enrile, Amulung and Tuguegarao City remained flooded.

Floods and strong winds triggered by the typhoon in three northern Aurora towns destroyed 180 houses and damaged 2,942 others, Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo said in a phone interview yesterday.

The floods in Dilasag, Casiguran and Dinalungan also ruled P12.7 million worth of crops and livestock, Castillo said.

Damage to infrastructure reached P6.7 million. Power had yet to be restored in most towns of Aurora.

In Nueva Ecija, Imelda Santos, provincial agriculturist, said about 40,000 hectares of rice crops in their flowering stage and 20,000 hectares of ready to harvest crops were damaged by strong rains and wind.

In Tarlac, officials of the provincial disaster coordinating council met to village in the province suffered severe flooding.

Cordillera

Vicente Tomasito, OCD Cordillera director, said 4,735 residents in seven towns of Apayao were evacuated to safer ground.

Initial damage to agriculture and livestock in Apayao was pegged at P5.6 million while Ifugao reported P12.6 million in agricultural and livestock losses.

Three more was fatalities in the Cordillera and at least 18 members of the Greek family in Barangay Asinan-Cutan in Labrador, Kalinga, were hurt in a landslide.

Benguet posted P2.63 million worth of damage to highland vegetables and flowers after the typhoon's fury.

Power in many towns of Kalinga, Ifugao and Apayao had yet to be restored.

Pangasinan

In Pangasinan, the typhoon spared the rice crop but damaged vegetables and mango trees.

Jose Bituin Jares, provincial agriculturist, said about 40,000 hectares of rice crops in their flowering stage and 20,000 hectares of ready to harvest crops were damaged by strong rains and wind.

In Tarlac, officials of the provincial disaster coordinating council met to village in the province suffered severe flooding.

Suspected oil leak in Palawan

By Jobilo P Tesorio
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—HO radio signs of an oil slick have reportedly alarmed tourists and residents in El Nido, Palawan, one of the most beautiful coastal areas in the country.

Visitors to pristine islands beach reported that waters they swopped on the rapid, there were traces of oil on their feet.

The El Nido local government and its coastline council, fearful that residue from the Guimaras oil spill might have reached Palawan's northern tip, have sought the assistance of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), an environment body in the province.

El Nido tourism office Arvin Acosta sent a sample of suspected oil sludge to the environmental monitoring agency for proper analysis. The suspected government also sent a sample to the PCSD Manila office for testing.

The PCSD dispatched a technical team to El Nido on Oct. 30 to check the reports.

Signs of a suspected oil slick were reportedly first noticed on Oct. 9 by residents who ply Bacuit and Corong Bay.

PCSD information officer Alex Matriano said residents and visitors should not be alarmed until the report had been verified. He said there were many possible sources of oil such as from the massive Guimaras oil spill.

The possibility the Tubbataha Reefs Marine Park, another tourist spot in the province, might be touched by the Guimaras oil spill was raised recently.

In the aftermath of the oil tanker accident off Guimaras in August, the provincial government of Palawan formed a joint team to monitor and prevent oil oil residue from reaching the country's premier dive site, located in the Sulu Sea. Between Palawan mainland and the island of Pandy.

Extra pay today

THE LABOR DEPARTMENT HAS DECLARED today, All Saints' Day, a special non-working holiday throughout the country, which means that employees who report for work are entitled to extra pay.

The no-work, no-pay policy will apply unless there is a collective bargaining agreement.

Those who report for work today will get their daily rate, plus 30 percent, for the first eight hours of work, and another 30 percent of the hourly rate in excess of eight hours.

If today happens to be an employee's off-day but he reports for work, the daily rate, plus 50 percent, will apply to the first eight hours of work.

For work in excess of eight hours, the employee is also entitled to 30 percent of his hourly rate.

—Jaymee Anley

BI suspends 2 agents charged with extortion

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (BI) has suspended two of its intelligence agents who are under investigation for robbery and extortion after charges were filed against them by a Baguio-based Indian businessman.

Agents Dionisio Elvira and Fernando Tabaia Jr. were placed on three-month preventive suspension, said BI intelligence chief Pedal Hesaita.

The suspension order was issued on Friday and signed by Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr.

Deputy Commissioner Sanjiv Kumar said he was angered by Elvira and Tabaia on Oct. 16 on the strength of a mission order signed by Associate Immigration Commissioner Jose Cabochan Jr.

Fernandez, however, said he had not authorized Cabochan's order Kumar's arrest.

Elvira maintained that Kumar's arrest was legal because of the mission order issued by Cabochan.

Kumar filed a complaint before the Baguio City prosecutor's office alleging that Elvira and Tabaia took him to Manila and demanded P400,000 in exchange for his release.

Kumar claimed the two immigration agents threatened to kill him if he did not produce the money.

Kumar said he gave P300,000 to the two agents in August.

The BI also placed 11 Indian nationals on its watchlist for allegedly submitting fake documents when they applied for I-Cards. I-Cards are issued to registered holders of resident visas in the country.

Immigration Associate Commissioner Roy Alonzo placed the Indians on the watchlist to prevent them from leaving the country and evading arrest for alleged violations of immigration laws.

Alonzo said the Indian nationals submitted spurious documents to make it appear that they were married to Philippine citizens so they would get temporary residence visas.

The foreigners also allegedly violated several sections requiring them to explain why they should not be subjected to deportation proceedings.

The BI uncovered a scheme wherein Indian nationals conspire with unscrupulous travel agents and fixers by submitting fake documents with their I-Card applications.

Alonzo said the I-Card project will flush out illegal aliens and those holding fake immigrant and nonimmigrant visas.

The electronic I-Cards will soon replace the paper-based alien certificate of registration (ACR) that the BI used to issue to registered foreigners. All aliens residing in the Philippines are required to get an I-Card.

AIR FORCE GETS A PLANE
A KUS/RBS-BE3 F-27-600 light transport aircraft was turned over yesterday by the Department of National Defense to the Philippine Air Force to add to the latter's small fleet of Fokker planes. The plane was acquired from a company in the United Kingdom under the Air Force Capability Modernization Technology Development Program. The plane will be used as a troop and VIP transport, for medical and mercy missions, and to ferry relief goods according to Maj. Augusto dela Pena, PAF spokesperson.

Searching for the American Dream?

We have answers to all of your U.S. immigration questions.

- more than 25 years of experience
- committed to excellence
- backed by a team of immigration experts and professionals
- practice devoted exclusively to U.S. immigration and nationality laws

ATTY. ROBERT L. REEVES

We make success stories happen every day.

Call us now at TOLL-free Number 1-800-10-7733-837 or visit www.reeves.com For Manila Residents: (2) 759-4777

REEVES & ASSOCIATES
Your Immigration Solution

MANILA | CEBU | DAVAO | ILOILO

Brion: New maid wage stays

By Jerome Aning

THE GOVERNMENT STANDS by its new policy of doubling the minimum wage of Filipinos domestics abroad from $200 a month to $400, according to Labor Secretary Arturo Brion.

Officials of the Federated Association of Manpower Exporters (not Agencies as earlier reported), met the other day with Brion to express their concerns about the wage increase, which the labor secretary promised to relay to the governing board of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

"We explained all the measures that are in place and I believe they were quite satisfied so I think this is a closed issue," Brion said yesterday during a press briefing.

He said he explained to these officials the POEA measures for the minimum and what the government would be doing so that unnecessary and deployment rules would not suffer.

Brion had earlier called the measure "unevidence," saying that wages should be left to market forces because the Philippines, as a labor supplier, could not make demands from foreign employers.

Recruitment groups will meet in Manila on Monday to discuss their course of action regarding the government's new policy.

Aside from the basic wage adjustment, the POEA also increased the minimum age for domestic to 23 years (from 21) and banned the collection of placement fees from maids applying to work abroad.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DV self Bldg., 1000 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
SAP INTERNATIONAL SERVICES INC.	Walter Cobb	Director
ASTRAZENECA PHARMACEUTICALS PHILS., INC.	Fiona Lane Ross	Head of Quality Management
JOSEPH, INC.	Gustavo Adan Cherry	Chief Executive Officer
MULTI SYSTEMS CONSULTING INTERNATIONAL INC.	Rajiv Pawan	Director
C.C. BRAND ENTERPRISES, INC.	Elena Ling	Billing Engineer
C.C. BRAND ENTERPRISES, INC.	Chongsang Su	Billing Engineer
SAN DAKEN BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES INCORPORATED	Mitsuhiro Inoue	Deputy General Manager
SAN DAKEN BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES INCORPORATED	Hiroyuki Tsuruta	SSAB Operations
INTERNATIONAL ACCESS SUPPORT PHILIPPINES CORP.	Hirotaka Ishikawa	Director
TEL ENGLISH SOLUTION CORP.	Yang Jun Park	General Manager
EUN JEONG ENTERPRISES, INC.	Sang Ik Jeong	Vice President
MENAGERIE COSMETICS, INC.	Hannah Montenegro	Vice President
MENAGERIE COSMETICS, INC.	Seungsik Choi	Treasurer

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

LEANDRO V. VERGARA
Regional Director

Erap can't see ma today

DEPOSED PRESIdent Joseph Estrada will not be spending time with his ailing mother today after the Philippine National Police objected to the former leader's request to mark All Saint's Day with her.

In a manifestation, the PNP gave lack of sufficient time to prepare for Estrada's security movement from his detention center in Tanay, Rizal, to his mother's home in Greenhills, San Juan. That and the fact that the police would have their hands full with the public's observances of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day today and tomorrow.

"Definitely, for short time will not be sufficient for the PNP, particularly the Police Security Protection Office, to undertake the necessary preparations, ensure the safety and well-being of the accused ... more so since the PNP will have in hands full ensuring public safety during the observance of All Saints' Day," Senior Supt. Romeo Hilarion, chief of the PNP, said.

Hilarion said the police would be ready to entertain Estrada if he wished to visit his mother from Nov. 3 to Nov. 5. Answers for duelists

US body still not keen on accepting '06 nursing board passers

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN ORGANIZATION THAT DETERMINES the eligibility of foreign-trained nurses to work in the United States is not about to accept—just yet—applicants from among the passers of the second nursing licensure examination.

In a statement passed on to reporters by the Philippine Regulatory Commission, the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) said it was still reviewing "whether the licensure process followed in light of the challenged results of the June 2006 exam is comparable with that required for nurse-licensed in America, as espoused by US law."

The CGFNS said that after the evaluation, it would determine "in the near future" whether the June 2006 batch of applicants were eligible for Visa-screen certificates.

Headlines-refers to the progress-offered by the CGFNS International Commission on Health Care Professionals that helps foreign health care professionals qualify for certain occupational visas. It does so by "certifying and evaluating their credentials in a manner that they meet the government's minimum eligibility standards."

Rep. Vinzons-area application that CGFNS receives from June 2006 passers will be accepted but delayed for a final decision until this assessment process is complete," the CGFNS said.

"If the assessment concludes that the license is not comparable, the Vinzons applicant's application for a June 2006 passer will be denied," it said.

First time

Prof. Zenaida Famaran of the University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing said that was the first time the CGFNS had come up with such a condition for Filipino nurses.

"We never had this in the past, especially since our nursing schools system in the Philippines is very similar to that of the United States," she told the Inquirer.

The CGFNS provides the certification nurses usually required by many American states before foreign nurses can take the National Council Licensure Examination administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

The CGFNS said it arrived at its decision on the June passers following a meeting of its board of trustees on Oct. 22 and 23.

The agency says "whether Philippine nurses who have passed the Professional Regulation Commission's June 2006 nursing licensing exam are eligible for Visa-screen certification."

"This is precisely the kind of reaction from would-be employers that are wracked on hard to pervious," said Famaran, whose college, along with representatives of the University of the Philippines, University of the East and the Eastern University, forms a total retake.

"WE MAKE FUN TO CELEBRATE BE DIFFERENT"
DRAGON FIREWORKS
• BIG PRICE OFF •
Now Accepting Dealers
FREE DELIVERY

Palace sacks all Board of Nursing members

By Inquirer staff

"The entire Board of Nursing has been removed. The President accepted their resignations," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced at his weekly briefing yesterday.

"We'd like to see the problem of the nursing licensure exams corrected. And then the next [regular] exam to be administered will be on Dec. 2 and 3, which is barely two months away," Ermita said.

It is the seven-member BON which prepares the questions for the board exam administered by the PRC. The latest test, held in August, was marred by a leak of test questions that tainted not only the exam but the entire Philippine nursing profession as well.

Ermita said the President signed the appointment papers of five new BON members on Oct. 27 before she left for an official visit to China. He said Malacañang was awaiting recommendations from the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Labor and Employment and PRC for the two other nominees.

Carmencita M. Abaquin will now serve as acting board chair, and Leonida A. Fider, Betty F. Ricarte, Berla G. De Leon and Marcia Antonia C. Sin-Tomas as acting members.

They replaced Shirley Ann Fabrosa Ortaliza and members Bernadine Hernandez, Leny E. Kuan, Evelina Calabria, Imelda Elenita and Virginia Medeja, whose resignations were accepted by Ms. Arroyo. The seventh slot, which has long been vacant, will be filled along with the ranks.

The suspended Medeja were earlier slapped with administrative and criminal charges for purportedly leaking the questions they prepared to examinees in the wires of Manila and Baguio.

All deserving

Nursing educators lauded the appointment of the new BON members.

"They are all deserving and are highly recommended," said Carmencita Dimagiba, president of the Association of Deans of the Philippine Colleges of Nursing and dean of the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay College of Nursing.

"We have no doubt as to their integrity and competence in terms of their knowledge of the BSN [Bachelor of Science in Nursing] curriculum," she said in a phone interview.

Dimagiba is also said she now BON members would ensure against leaks in future nursing board exams.

"We agree that they will safeguard everything the tests that will be administered by them, and work for the implementation of the proper test framework, which is competency-based," she said, pointing out that the BON had "deviated from this framework in the past."

Fely Marilyn Lorenzo, director of the University of Manila-Institute of Health Policy and Development, said the nursing education sector supported the new board.

Lorenzo described the new appointees as "outstanding and capable women."

"We are confident they can redress the [licensing] process in nursing if they put their minds to it," she said, adding:

"It's the PRC that still needs to be revamped."

The PRC is chaired by lawyer Teresa Rivera, the President's personal dentist.

For here on

Ermita said Malacañang also wanted the National Bureau of Investigation to complete its inquiry into who among the examinees had benefited from the leak believed to have been disseminated to at least three review centers.

He said the NBI had yet to submit its report.

But Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said the controversy could continue to simmer with the failure of the coordination talks hosted by the Court of Appeals.

"It's far from over; it's still with the court now, like I said in the beginning, the judicial process will run out and only the Supreme Court decides on it," he said.

The appellate court had allowed the retaking of the June board passers in batches, but said that those who would later be found to have cheated could still have their licenses revoked. Oath-taking ceremonies have been going on at the PRC since Friday.

The court had also invalidated the PRC's computation of the grades and ordered a retake for some 1,067 who passed because of the recomputation.

But a group from the University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing seeking a total retake of the exam had asked the court to stop the oath-taking.

The consolidated petitions, which Brion had submitted to the appellate court, were intended to resolve the conflict.

Aberrations

Brion also said his office was looking into what he called "aberrations" in the PRC list of passers.

The investigation stemmed from a complaint filed with the DOLE by 20 examinees complaining of purported discrepancies in the computation of their grades, Brion said in a press briefing.

He said the PRC's final list of passers may now entirely be accurate because of differences in the original, recomputed and final grades.

"But we the commission were hesitant to endorse the oath-taking," said Brion, who had originally wanted all passers to retake Sets B and V (the questionable portions of the exam).

Brion said the DOLE had been studying the differences among the PRC's master, revised and "deemed passed" lists.

The master list contains the original grades of all the examinees in each of the five parts of the exam.

The retake list is what the PRC issued after recomputing the passers' grades following the discovery of the leak.

The PRC released the "deemed passed list" following the issuance of the appellate court's ruling on the matter.

According to Brion, in some cases some examinees who failed under the first list had one to eight points added to their grades in the third list and were thus able to pass and take their oath.

"The differences are very disturbing," he said, adding that he had asked the PRC to explain the discrepancies.

Brion said the DOLE was also looking into the case of 2,605 examinees who failed under the master list but passed when the grades were recomputed.

He said he had found errors in the recomputation.

Probe results on Nov. 6

Brion said he said his staff had been comparing the lists and would obtain samples "sufficient for us to draw conclusions from."

He said the results of the investigation would be turned over to the "proper forum" on Nov. 6.

He also said he was prepared to face the motion for indirect contempt that a nursing group, citing his objection to the oath-taking, had filed against him before the appellate court.

"It's a commending of the law [on] their part, considering that I wasn't a party to the case at all and that a party must first see the court before filing a case," he said.

Brion, who was a Court of Appeals justice prior to his appointment as labor secretary, said he would respond to the petition only if ordered by the court to do so.

He said he would withhold further comment because of the sub judice principle and "no need further inflaming emotions."

Suffering

In another twist to the controversy, 24 exam passers and their parents have lodged a civil suit at the Quezon City Hall of Justice against three group leaders seeking a general retake.

The complainants sought P10,000 each in moral and exemplary damages for the suffering purportedly caused by the delay in their oath-taking.

Those charged were Rose Lizz Solis, Ted Ernesto Bandoc and Michael Angelo Rosal, presidents of the UST College of Nursing Faculty Association, the League of Concerned Nurses and the Bloodshed on Senseless ng mga Student Nurses, respectively.

Solis et al. had asked the appellate court to order a general retake to preserve the exam's integrity, but the court denied the petition and ordered the oath-taking to proceed, excluding 1,067 examinees who had benefited from the leak and who were ordered by the court to retake Sets B and V.

The class subsequently sought the court's reconsideration.

But the complainants said Solis et al. were making it appear that a great number of people shared their sentiments when "in fact, they are just there individual petitioners, two of whom are not even registered nurses." With reports from Alexis Jupa and DJ Yap

BPO
We don't just produce Call Center Agents.
WE DEVELOP PROFESSIONALS
The holistic and comprehensive
100 HOUR-Finishing Course for
CALL CENTER AGENT
HURRY...ENROLL NOW!
COURSES

OUR LADY OF FATIMA UNIVERSITY
WE CAN THINK OF
2,605
WAYS TO SAY WE'RE
THE LEADING NURSING SCHOOL.

Philippine Trial Judges League set to hold convention in Palawan

The Philippine Trial Judges League composed of the Municipal Trial Court Judges and Shariá Judges will hold its 5th National Convention and Seminar at the Legend Hotel, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan on November 8 to 10, 2006. JUDGE CALIXTO L. MONES, the National President of the League said that their theme "Maintaining Judicial Independence and Integrity in the first level courts" seeks to maintain the Public Faith and Confidence in the Judiciary is in line with the vision of Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban that the judges in the Judiciary should have integrity, independence, industry and intelligence.

The highlights of the convention include the continuing legal education conducted by the Philippine Judicial Academy, the city tour and the fellowship night. Mayor Edward Hagedorn, the city Mayor of Puerto Princesa City who will give the welcome remarks will be introduced by National Treasurer Judge Alberto Umali and Governor Joel Reyes of Palawan who will give an inspirational message will be introduced by Executive Vice President Judge Danilo Tamerlis. Hon. Christopher O. Lock, the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court will hold a dialogue with the Judges in the said convention.

ASEAN-CHINA PARTNERSHIP is stressed by President Arroyo in her speech during the opening days of the third China-Asean Expo in Nanning, China. GALA/AFP PHOTO

GMA and family spending All Saints' Day in Hong Kong

By Christine O. Avendaño

NANNING, CHINA—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO and her family are spending All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in Hong Kong.

Ms Arroyo and some members of her family flew to Hong Kong yesterday after wrapping up a five-day visit to China, where she cochaired the association of Southeast Asian Nations-China dialogue summit.

Also accompanying Ms Arroyo on her three-day private visit to Hong Kong are Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and other officials.

She is expected to return to Manila on Nov. 2.

Aside from First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Ms Arroyo's sons, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo and Dato Arroyo, joined the China visit. Mikey Arroyo's wife, Angelica, and their two daughters were also part of the delegation.

The First Gentleman told the Palace he could hold some meetings in Hong Kong and then spend some private time in the former Crown Colony.

The Arroyo children and their kids will go to Disneyland for one day, according to Ms Arroyo.

The First Gentleman said the Arroyos would visit their dead when they return home. "Our ancestors will understand," he said, adding that they intended to spend the three-day weekend on holiday.

Today will be a working day for Ms Arroyo who will meet with Hong Kong businessmen and potential investors over lunch to be hosted by Victor Fung, according to Bunye.

She will meet later with Tung Hawk, his wife and his children.

Hawk is the former deputy commissioner of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption.

In the next two days, the President is to meet with Filipino organizations before flying to Manila.

"It will be a well-deserved rest and recreation (for the President)," Bunye told reporters.

The only time the President was able to take a pleasure trip during her grueling China visit was when she and her family took a boat ride on the Li-Jiang River in Guilin.

Ms Arroyo said reporters the other day how she enjoyed the river tour and how it reminded her of Sidwalo's underground caves, although she said the 80-kilometer Li-Jiang River was longer than the Sidwalo.

Lowest Price Guaranteed or Your Money Back
ALL NEW! Intel Pentium 4 2.93
P 28,999.00 w/ 17" LCD
Buy computers online:
www.buyqube.com
Manila Cebu Davao
(02) 410 - QUBE (7823)
0922-4106849 to 50

TWO HOURS OF MTV'S CRAZIEST, GROUND-BREAKING SHOWS TO HEAT UP YOUR WEEKNIGHTS, 9-11PM!
SWITCHED ON
THE HILLS
The show follows Laguna Beach's Lauren and her new friends as they balance school, work, and relationships and follow their dreams in Los Angeles, the One City Where Anything Can Happen. Switch on to MTV for The Hills on Thursdays at 9:30pm.
PIMP MY RIDE
Pimp My Ride will blow your doors off when MTV shows you how to transform your tired old hatchback into a full-fledged, fully-loaded pimp chariot. Switch on to MTV for Pimp My Ride on Tuesdays at 9pm.
Join MTV's Switched On promo and win hot prizes like cellphones, CDs, MTV collectibles and more! Text in now!
UHF CHANNEL 41 · SKY CABLE CHANNEL 22 www.mtv-philippines.com

Asean now looks up to China

From page A1

with trade of $110.37 billion last year and $59.5 billion in 2000.

The 13-member Asean is currently running a trade surplus with China and Southeast Asian leaders and officials say the region is now focused on seeking more investments from the economic giant.

Integrative trade

At the Expo, Ms Arroyo said Filipino businessmen were exuberantly because they were "looking not only for products to bring home but for industries where Chinese and Asean businessmen can collaborate to produce for their own domestic markets and for the rest of the world."

"My hope is that Nanning-making for products as candidates for integrative trade with China for Asean, I am confident our people will bear fruit in the field of shared prosperity."

Ms Arroyo was also the keynote speaker at the 1st China-Asean Business and Investment Summit (CABIS) where she said that trade between China and Asean were "more confident, mature and comprehensive."

The President reiterated her call for China to look at the Philippines as a "destination for more greater Chinese investment."

"I am speaking today as chair of Asean but I would like to draw on the economic colossal underscore to the Philippines," she said.

"In the Philippines, the poverty rate is down, the per capita income is now at all-time high and we are on track for a balanced budget in 2008," she said.

Mining and infrastructure

She described same RP-China relations to be "at an all-time high."

"Thus, I take this opportunity to invite China to look at the Philippines as a destination for more greater Chinese investment, particularly in the area of mining, infrastructure development, agriculture and fisheries as well as housing."

Noting that the future of Cebu was "Our Future" for Asean and China, Ms Arroyo expressed the hope that this would translate to a "better life in every home and community in East Asia."

"We hope that one future will mean the removal and banishment of hunger and poverty. We hope that our future will be a robust and vibrant regional community in one sharing and strong community minds up of Asean and China, "the President said.

Preferential loans

Wen, speaking later at another business event, announced Asean that China was committed to opening up its market further to Southeast Asia and pledged many preferential loans to Chinese businesses investing in the region.

"The Chinese government will foster its investment made for year of providing $1 billion of preferential loans to support Chinese companies in investing and setting up business ventures in Asean countries," he said.

Itinerary

Ms Arroyo earlier visited the provinces of Fujian, Jiangxi and Guangxi where she pitched for more Chinese investments in the Philippines.

She brought along a delegation of Chinese-Filipino businessmen, some of whom had put up businesses in Xiamen and Fuzhou city.

The President also witnessed the signing of several agreements that would enhance trade and investment between Manila and Beijing. One of these is a joint project that would allow for the rehabilitation of the Mimbo international airport in Guangxi City.

Ms Arroyo also exchanged the other day with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao the Asean-China commemorative summit marking the 10-year partnership of the two exchange partners.

At the summit, the Asean and Chinese leaders agreed to work together to bringing back North Korea to the Six Party Talks in order to achieve peace in the region as long from Pyongyang's nuclear program. With a report from AFP

Corrections

IN THE OCT 31 ISSUE, on 1 Team special report on the front page—"Fish are jumping, but bring net easy"—misstated the name of the Philippine branch of an environmentalist group based in Switzerland. The environmentalist group is World Wide Fund for Nature, and World Wildlife Fund.

World Wildlife Fund was the organization's official name until it expanded its work in the 1980s to conserve the environment as a whole. Then the organization's legal name became World Wide Fund for Nature, although the old name is still used in North America.

Despite its new legal name, the environmentalist group has retained the acronym "WWF."

IN THE OCT 31 ISSUE, on across the Metro story on Page A18—"Investigate bills boxer Magsaysay intruder"—misstated the year when Eugenio Dee an Ayuso of founded the hospital. The hospital was founded in 1905—not 1906.

Readers may send their corrections for inclusion in the next issue in writing to the Inq. Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 8th Building, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Makati Avenue, Makati City, fax 896-6214, or e-mail editor@inquirer.com.ph. Please include your full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes.

EVEREST HILLS MEMORIAL PARK

SUSANA HEIGHTS • LAGUNA

2005
NATIONAL PRODUCT QUALITY
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

AND THE

SEAL OF PRODUCT QUALITY

ARE CONFERRED UPON

EVEREST HILLS MEMORIAL PARK
BEST MEMORIAL PARK

A Project Of:
The Vazquez-Madrigal
Group of Companies
Implemented By:
Peak Development, Inc.

Our Parks' beauty and elegance
provide ideal settings
for the eternal repose of beloved ones.

GENERAL AGENCIES:

- **GACUSAN GENERAL AGENCY**
  TEL.: 862-0098 CELL: 0919-4146455
- **LEMEX GENERAL AGENCY**
  TELS.: 872-0534 / 871-3619
- **M. AGATON GENERAL AGENCY**
  CELL: 0920-3887520
- **RAMOS PRE-NEED PLANS SERVICES**
  TELS.: 862-3320 / 850-2973
  CELL: 0917-7171947

Peak Development, Inc.

2nd Floor Madrigal Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City
TELS.: 816-2066 • 816-1822 • 816-1823
FAX: 891-5970

SUSANA HEIGHTS SITE
TELS.: **560-0130 • 807-2711**
LAGUNA SITE
TEL.: **(049) 833-1961**

GENERAL AGENCIES:

- **SALVADOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.**
  TELS.: 808-0097 / 865-8660
- **ISIDORIAN GEN. AGENCY**
  TEL.: 843-5645 CELL: 0918-9280129
- **V.O. TAGLE GENERAL AGENCY**
  TELS.: 842-3863 / 893-2183
  FAX: 842-3951
  CELL: 0917-3731280 / 0917-3985867
- **ZYDREWS GEN. AGENCY**
  TEL.: 844-7878 CELL: 0921-8087135

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Survivor

SO MANY TRIAL BALLOONS ARE BEING LAUNCHED at present that we have to wonder if there's even rhyme or reason in all the schemes to amend the Constitution. The recently dismissed petition to have a plebiscite to approve Sigaw ng Bayan's constitutional amendments still faces appeal before the Supreme Court. But already the administration's ranks are bursting with ideas for accomplishing constitutional change.

EDITORIAL

Speaker Jose de Venecia doesn't want to wait for the outcome of the motion for reconsideration. He wants the House of Representatives to approve the amendments proposed by Rep. Constantino Jaraula, regardless of the findings of the Senate. Rep. Prospero Pichay claims he has more signatures than the Speaker, and wants the amendments he's put together substituted for the Jaraula amendments. Furthermore, he believes the people would permit a postponement of next year's elections, if the plebiscite to approve his constitutional proposals is made simultaneous with the elections.

Others propose that a convention be called and delegates elected during the next local elections. Lawyer Estelito Mendoza himself wants a constitutional convention with a twist: an appointed, and not elected one. Raul Lambino of Sigaw ng Bayan opposed the proposal. Mendoza has responded by saying Lambino's appeal before the Supreme Court won't prosper.

What's the picture emerging from what seems to be political chaos within the administration's ranks? Is there some kind of feeding frenzy within the administration?

There may be method to the madness. A campaign is under way, and it involves a division, a showdown. One that's between President Macapagal-Arroyo's principal lieutenants in Kampi and the Arroyo wing of the Liberal Party on one hand, and the Speaker's forces in the party that the Presidente constantly brads, Lakas-CMD, on the other. In that light, the contradictory and even hostile statements coming from the Lakas stalwarts in the Cabinet (Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Political Affairs Adviser Gabriel Claudio, in particular) and Kampi chief Ronaldo Puno and Arroyo wing power boy Michael Defensor begin to make sense.

There is a difference—and an intense one—of opinion because for those involved, the objectives are different. In theory, all sides in the administration are united on what they want: a unicameral parliament under a federal system. But while the veterans of Lakas-CMD, long used to wielding power, want a smooth and quick transition to the new regime, under a prime minister to be elected from their ranks, the loyalists of President Arroyo want something else: the prime minister must come from their ranks, and with the option that it should be either Mr Arroyo after 2010, or, should the decline to rule themselves, ensuring the receives some kind of immunity after she leaves office.

In a sense, that flashpoint that brought this debate out in the open—the anti-people's initiative position of Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr.—is reminiscent of the role played by Arturo Tolentino in the Marcos government in 1983-84. At that time, the KBL factionally debated assuming the position of vice president over concerns as to who should be Marcos' successor (at the time, it was a vague council). Tolentino, then, as Cruz is now, was viewed by some administration loyalists to be acting in a way that was not in harmony with the desires of Marcos. Tolentino also irritated Marcos himself when he questioned the idea of granting the latter immunity should he leave office. By pointing out the inconvenient reality about the absence of a solid consensus on the people's initiative among the administration and its allies, Cruz has rumbled the façade of unity in the administration camp.

The President is reportedly furious over the bickering, and politically, rightly so, as it is not only to have such a divergence in views among her supporters because public. However the congressional break means there's room for political maneuvering. The President learns one of her strongest prerogatives is to act as referee. She can do so now, save the Speaker—and strengthen her own claim to leadership.

Publisher **Isaac Belmonte**
Editor-in-Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Regalado**
Associate Editor **Melanio N. Mabilog**
Assistant Editor for Special Projects **Rosario E. Garcellano**
Vice Editor **Antonio T. Enriquez Jr.** • Chief, News Day Desk **Neal H. Pacheco**
Opinion Editor **Juan V. Arcelo**
National Editor **Philemon B. Quimpo Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Jose P. Sonido II, Jr.**
Editor at Literature **Antonio Enriquez**
Chief Photographer **Ernie L. Esperas** Jr.
Art & Design Director **Grace A. Velasco**

Board of Chairman **Hermie R. Pasco**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Executive Vice President **Gloria G. Nuyda**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Rizalina R. Mercado**
Vice President for Advertising **Ruth R. Guarin**
Vice President for Finance **Socorro Socias B. Tay**

Publisher's Advisory Council **Lorna Kalaw-Tirol**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied or distributed without the prior written permission of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.

Two war-time atrocities for All Saints' Day

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THROUGH ALL THE POST-WAR YEARS THAT we have been observing All Saints' Day, I have often wondered why nobody visited a big lot set for him-our unknown-Unknown in Malabon to light candles for the dead. A number of men and women were buried there during the war—suspected of being spies and Hukbalahs and executed by the guerrillas.

Our family remained was in the middle of between and between of Sulipanda. Within sight, across the ponds, was a wooded area where stood a huge abaca (the caretaker and a) who-he had to open or close the sluice gate in the middle of the night to let water from the river flow into or out of the ponds, depending on the tide. The way to this wooded area led to our cogonal where the guerrillas had a big, fenced-in (like) lined with mangroves. My two brothers and I were living alone with my grandfather (as boys in that compound), my father (our mother was already dead) and the rest of the family having moved temporarily to an apartment on Legarda Street in Sampaloc, Manila.

The guerrillas were quite active in our barrio. They were very popular to the town and people worshipped the known guerrillas and guerrillas have been fond, although they were hard up themselves.

Assassinations of suspected collaborators were common and stories of guerrillas going to a house in the dead of night and taking away a member were widespread. One week morning. The father of a classmate, a German priest, to have been born and a Filipina mestiza and married to a Filipina, was assassinated by guerrillas in his own home in the next barrio (not because he was a priest but because he was a German).

There were times when guerrillas would march prisoners...sometimes alone, at other times in two or threes—with their hands tied behind their backs, through the barrio and along the cogonal dike, in single file to their wooded area.

There were several huge unnatural trees in our compound and we would climb one of them and, hidden by the foliage, watched and listened to all they could.

We could hear the guerrillas questioning their prisoners, though not clearly enough to know what they were saying. We could hear the pleas or which their themselves-big, told to say their prayers and then clubbed at the back of the head with a steel crowbar. The body would topple into the pit and the guerrillas would immediately cover it with soil and leaves.

Then executions left us three little kids terrified, but we did not say anything—not even to each other. We just anticipated knowing looks.

One grandchildren was too old to climb the trees and so he didn't see anything, though he probably heard the shots. He probably also thought nothing of it. He was always busy shopping himself.

We witnessed several of those executions which happened in broad daylight and, I suppose, also at night. In the morning there were eighty others we could hear thuds and mount but it was too dark to see anything.

Anyway, if there are fatalities whose names disappeared during the war, there is a possibility that there are also a few that can be found in those lonely, unmarked graves, if the bones can be identified. But then the place has been developed and houses have been built on top of it. I wonder if the people who live there have heard of the unknown who perished there, or heard thuds and groans as the souls of the unfortunate victims lurched here try to tell the living that they are down there.

If at some future date the dead were to be exhumed for archeological or any other reasons, I am sure they will find skeletons with necks broken or the back of skulls cracked open. They are the victims of the atrocities and the summary judgments of wartime guerrillas. Some of the victims might have actually been real spies and collaborators of the Japanese, but there were others who would have been innocent victims.

Anyway, it may not be forbidden to say some candles indeed on the side during All Saints' Day as families looking for some of their members who disappeared during the war can find them there. May they have eternal peace of rest.

* * *

While we are at it, I might as well tell this other wartime assassination by guerrillas that I personally will remember.

The ex-lover of my oldest brother had decided to evacuate to a farm in Pampanga owned by a relative. They took all their children, grandchildren and ex-lover to walk with our parents all the way from Malabon to Bocaue. My brother took the three of us youngest siblings with them.

Somewhere in Pampanga, it began to rain and we took shelter in abandoned huts near the highway. A bamboo bridge nearby which there were on it burst as to one of the huts. I quickly climbed into one of the huts, appropriated from the others, as the rain poured.

Suddenly, I heard a shout in Kapampangan and then three more shots. I looked out the window and saw one of the three men start to topple back, hold at the elbow by the second man, as the third man stood above him holding a pistol. The escaped shot from was hit and fell to the ground. I dropped in the bamboo floor in terror and heard a third shot.

I looked out the window again when I heard voices and movement, and the first thing I saw was the man lying face up and the second, all bloody, while the two assassins were running away through the bushes to a wood the other side of the ridge. My companions were leaving and I hurriedly left the hut and joined them.

To this day, I often wonder who that man was and why he was killed.

Haunted

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE GRIGHT SIDE OF THE DEAD. SAID-man stuff on TV over the last couple of days, shows where people tell about their sightings of otherworldly apparitions. I myself am tempted to say I've only witnessed apparitions I've been of late in Dawn Zulueta as unrevealed or unrecognized in her self in Share Frasco, but that's another story. And it's not entirely true: I have seen a huge number of people who have died (relatives and friends and ex-confidants) I have made up to contribute to the literature about the phenomenon.

I can say with reasonable certainty there are ghosts. Indeed, I can say with reasonable certainty that our country is the most haunted (or haunting), outside Ireland. Indeed, I can say with unreasonable certainty that country is positively haunted, flaming are queues, legions, so yes many classes of ghosts exist.

1. Ghost employees. This phenomenon was sighted recently in Makati. Many of the ghosts were said to materialize not at the outset of the full moon but at the approach of the 15th and 30th of the month. The rest had no distinctive appearance, only their presence could be detected. The palpability of their presence manifested in the absence of a substantial amount of payroll money. Some sightees claimed to have touched these ghosts, particularly those in the Makati jail, others claimed to have seen seen the Makati cemetery.

There was only one problem about the sightings. When the sightees accosted the ghosts, they promptly disappeared. Ghosts are, for some reason, they could see the phenomenon only in Makati and not in the places where the ghost employees flocked more abundantly at normal or times (Baguio comes to mind). Notably in the Palace by the Bible even and the House by what used to be a garbage and/or "salvaging" dump (the connection of the House seemed not to have impressed it, the place remains a garbage and/or "salvaging" dump). The ghost of the railway known as the impeachment jail still waits there.

2. Ghost signatories, ghost voices. The first was spotted by the report of Makati, Antonio Meloto, who reported that there was a ghostly aura of Ilgaw ng Bayan, the group that wanted the Charter changed, originated from the same place his detractors claimed many of his employees did, which was the Makati cemetery. Their credentials were randomized and their faces were unrecognizable. Some of them were ex-officio, or however Ronald Reagan called them as "Ghostbusters." Some had absolutely no substance at all, living or dead, sequential or otherwise. Apparently, never having existed at any time, place, or dimension.

The ghost voices were spotted by eight of the justices of the Supreme Court, after hearing the people themselves complaints of them. The specs of the voices coming from the ear in the head, the nations east. It was coming from the bowels of the garbage-cum "salvaging" dump. Indeed, it wasn't Ilgaw ng Bayan, it was Ilgaw ng Bayad. Or it would. Ilgaw ng Bayan, it was changed to Ang Tapat ng Bayan, the meaning of the Ilgaw ng Bayan proponents, who entrusted their bodies rules for the angry shouts of a nation in pain, was a perfect complement to the perfectly good Filipino sayings. Which means, they couldn't tell ghostly from corporeal, genuine from sold. The Constitution is genuine, the President a fake. They wanted to change the Charter and keep the President.

3. Ghost votes, ghost voters. They're to be found plentifully in Test Tent and neighboring vicinities, those places now having taken into recently Ilgaw ng Bayan's claim to having this country's witch or voodoo cripple. Those votes and votes have a particular knowing aspect to contribute to the phenomenon of ghosts, which is that they tend to have the same hand-writing. The ballot boxes have the same hand-writing. The ballots have the same hand-writing. The votes counted in Maguindanao in 2004 were written, if not by one ghost at most, by only a few of them. In short, the thumbprints on some of them were positively ghostly and ghastly, resembling neither human hand nor normal paw. They were (seems) so were suppose for what some becomes the Ilgaw ng Bayan.

Quite disturbingly as well, is the astonishingly supernatural event called the 2004 elections, some people who performed to remain unfelt were, in fact, dead and gone. Nino Rodrigo Guingona, who seemed to keep electronics close in those ghostly areas, was promptly ordered to disappear and take golf instead. Jarez, when he tried to tell the history what he saw, was told to tell the history what he heard. Velarde, who was supposed to be invisible and take on an unsophisticated aspect, he remains. In that close to this day, most lost not seen, heard but not heard.

4. Ghost politicians. There's a ghost who stalks in Malacañang, and he is not Lee Hsien The Phantom. Now you see him, now you don't. Now you know him as Jun Ubial, now you see him as Willy Arroyo. Now you see him as Jun Ubial's wife, now you see him bowing out by his wife to Luz Segui, which is not unlike punishing a turtle for the sport of running and jumping by throwing him into the sea.

The presidential entity has taken substantial damage as he has spent months currently suing everybody who has had cause to disparage it. His charges remain largely unexhausted and unsubstantiated, but who knows? One of the arrowsthe Senate has been Willy Ligaya who can swear he accused of having an unphysical presence, the laughs of the change and even the ghastly thing about Willy's ghost is a dance-cyanosure. (Somewhere: Mel's ghost.)

* * *

Tomorrow, the Stop the Killings Bus Tour moves on to Manila at Unplugged, Adriatico Street (beside Café Adriatico), 9:30 p.m. Delacruz Pura, Gallo Gilo Jimenez and Chito Gallind are playing. Tomorrow is still an extension of the day of the dead, so feel free to wear Halloween masks. Ghosts (Norberto Gonzalez and Philippe are to have told me very recently that they will be there) and Ghoulies for no other reason than that he's a Halloween-mask-all-by-itself.

In the pressure cooker, again

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION ON THE people's initiative process has emphatically proved its independence and its ability to climb off approaching pressures. For that it may have pushed it into another pressure-cooker test, pressure is often only a single iron to shift the balance the other way with regard to the proponents' motive for its restrictive ruling.

Once the ballots are cast, and this is not to say it will happen, hell could break loose again on the political front. It would be the height of complacency to think that the Court has said the last word on the people's initiative controversy.

The Arroyo administration's concerns may not giving up the battle for administrative change for good, although it is not relinquishing its motorcade, its legal tactics, and more so its political strategies, would be compelled then did not exploit the opportunity of finality that the decision would bring to the issue.

In the wake of the celebratory mood over the eminently argued majority decision, not a single legal mind has gone out on a limb to hazard any suggestion that this 8-7 vote will hold in deciding the Court to be calling the shots on this. It will it is reasonable to argue that the Court has now entered a new pressure zone in which the battle would center on whose mind to change or to swing among the justices.

The Court's deliberations on the petition for a people's initiative, is now no secret that the Court was subjected to intense pressures...both overt and covert...from several quarters. Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban admitted days before the decision that the Court was under pressure. This is why it is reasonable to argue that the Court has now entered a new pressure zone in which the battle would center on whose mind to change or to swing among the justices.

The Court's deliberations on the petition for a people's initiative, is now no secret that the Court was subjected to intense pressures...both overt and covert...from several quarters. Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban admitted days before the decision that the Court was under pressure. This is why it is reasonable to argue that the Court has now entered a new pressure zone in which the battle would center on whose mind to change or to swing among the justices.

Panganiban's admission on the pressure

RMC not yet off the hook

LETTERS

PAUSE ALLOW SETC EXTRADICTMT the Department of Health has not declared the hospital authorities were being charges for the alleged unwanted sepsis deaths of nine babies who were among those born last Oct. 4 at the state-run Rizal Medical Center (RMC). A more thorough investigation is now under way to verify if we whether the neonatal deaths could be linked to a breakdown in infection-control standards at the RMC.

The decision to conduct further investigation was made because some sectors continue to regard the findings of the DOH Rizal Fact-Finding Committee (FFC) and the National Epidemiology Center (NEC) on the cases as whitewash.

Let me stress that the findings of the RMC and NEC are just the prelude to a series of investigations that the DOH will be conducting on the case. In fact, the DOH legal service still conducts criminal investigation to determine existing civil service rules and regulations.

We are saddened by the demise of many quarters that the RMC has already closed the hospital and its staff and has blamed its casualties.

There will be no sacred cows in the investigations. And the DOH is not about to spare the red-tape anyone who will be proven to have neglected his duty of ensuring that no patients' wounds or babies will be put at risk during deliveries. We vow to do just that.

Last Oct. 23, the DOH released the results of the preliminary investigation where the NEC confirmed the outbreak of a highly fatal sepsis which affected 28 newborns and caused nine deaths, all born on Oct. 4 to the RMC. It was reported that the newborns suffered difficulty of breathing and fever within 30 hours after delivery. The NEC disclosed that the organism that caused the outbreak is transmitted and conveyed even before the delivery.

In the same investigation, both FFC and NEC were also unable to directly link contaminated hospital equipment and the Filipino-as-triggered power interruption to the outbreak.

However, both investigating teams said that "the most likely source of the outbreak is an infection acquired in the nursery."

There is no room for complacency

EZ2 6/42 Lunes/Vie-Mon
SUERTRES P50,000,000.00

Across the NATION

Gov't seeks new deadline in talks

CUDABATO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT FAILED twice to meet a self-imposed deadline to submit a new proposal to break a deadlock in peace talks with separatist guerrillas over territory, increasing anxiety over when the talks would resume.

Negotiators of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front said the government asked that it be given until Nov. 15 to submit a new proposal on a disputed area's territory and how powers to be the biggest stumbling block to a peace agreement with the Muslim guerrillas.

The government earlier promised to submit a new proposal on Sept. 30 but failed to do so. It sought an extension of the deadline to Oct. 30 but again failed to meet it.

MILF leaders quoted government negotiators as saying they were in consult with other groups and needed more time to present a new proposal on territory.

Mohagher Iqbal, chief MILF negotiator, said he was personally willing to extend the deadline to Nov. 15 but the MILF has yet to decide on it group.

"It's difficult and crucial but in the name of peace, there must be more patience," said Iqbal.

The talks were suspended over the negotiators' failure to agree on the size of the territory that was to be put under MILF governance.

The MILF was demanding that 5,000 villages be made part of the territory, to be called Bangsamoro Juridical, but the government was willing to grant only 600 predominantly Muslim villages.

The talks were also delayed by the MILF demand to retain the territory without a plebiscite, which the government flatly rejected.

The MILF had relented, agreeing to hold a plebiscite.

"We are for the constitutional process. If that's what they want," said Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs.

But Jaafar said the villages should "not include the 600 villages that the government was willing to part with."

"Our position is for the remaining villages that we are demanding to be included will have to be voted upon by the people in a plebiscite," Jaafar said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was quoted as telling Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, whose government was hosting the talks, that her administration wanted any agreement during the talks to go through the process of public consultation and ratification.

Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said the government and guerrilla panels' meeting this month was won't to give way to the holding of the Asean Summit in Cebu City.

In the meantime, clashes continue to disrupt a fragile ceasefire agreement between government troops and the guerrillas.

On Sunday, four MILF guerrillas were killed when government forces shelled guerrilla positions in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesman, said the Army started the clash by firing cannons to rebel positions. The Army said the shelling was an act of defense against rebel attacks on a military outpost.

Kabalu accused the Army of launching the attack because "apparently, they want the peace talks to totally collapse."

Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesman, said the rebels attacked an outpost of the 64th Infantry Battalion, prompting soldiers to return fire.

"We have no defined casualties. They attacked our area using high-powered firearms. And so soldiers in the field retaliated," Ando said. Joefhyn Balane and Charlie C. Setian, Inquirer Mindanao

Sierra Madre gangs hire thugs to keep logging going

LUCENA CITY—HOT CONTENT with unmolested logging activities perpetrated by the unholy alliance between corrupt government officials and forest rapists, a big-time illegal logging syndicate in Sierra Madre has concentrated a group of mercenaries to cow first among its resident adversaries.

A reliable source disclosed to the Inquirer that several personalities from among indigenous cultural communities, Church people, environmental group and concerned citizens were now marked for harassment and intimidation upon the order of the syndicate bosses.

"The criminal group has been connected to highest three executive-level personalities who continue to expose the illegal logging activities in Sierra Madre. And worse, the latest thugs are also ordered to kill if necessary just to deliver the message," the source from southern Quezon said in a phone interview.

He has been a reliable source of information for anti-logging advocates and government authorities due to his vast network of contacts in the illegal logging trade in Sierra Madre.

Last week, the same source also revealed the lavish business of some dozen people who hired some operators in the Real-Infanta-General Nakar area that cater to resurgent illegal logging activities in Sierra Madre.

He claimed that the identities of some members of the supposed mercenary group, which he described as composed of "professional criminals," and their backers had already been unmasked by a military intelligence unit.

Asked why there is still a need to intimidate civilians when the illegal loggers have already been operating with impunity, the informant said the Sierra Madre logging syndicate was now more protective of its unlawful operations.

"With the [commission on elections] and active involvement in anti-illegal logging campaigns, the target personalities have been inflicting serious damages in the business at least one by the recent arrest of successful anti-logging operations. The syndicate now wants to protect its operation at all costs," the source said.

In his recent report to Quezon provincial officials, Antonio Principe, director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Calabarzon region, confirmed the arrest of rampant illegal logging and pointed to big-time financiers from the lowland as brains. Delfin C. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOGGING pandicans operating with impunity in Sierra Madre use so-called human carabaos such as this man in hauling logs out of the supposedly protected mountains. (STORY ON THIS PAGE)

'Paeng' dumps water on Pampanga graves

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Clearing tombs turned out to be a snore difficult task for Joseph Lopez.

When Typhoon "Paeng" left on Tuesday, Lopez was in the middle of cleaning his family's tombstones in the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Barangay Del Pilar here.

"The burial plot used to be a few feet from the grounds raised after Mt. Pinatubo's blast," he said, referring to the mass by-water pumped into the tombs of his father and grandparents had been buried.

Lopez, 38, said he would have to ask the undertaker to give him more to fill the flooded space.

In the meantime, he turned painting the two tombs, at least the parts not washed by floodwaters.

Like him, the rest of the people rushing to clean tombs in the public cemetery walked on ground slowly filled with water.

The city government had hosted and since last week, and rushed to put in sandbags on flooded routes in the cemetery that had been used as base after the Spanish era.

Engineer Ferdinand Arcilla, the city plan would have been totally underwater until hastily he worked, according to village councilors designated security guards.

As of 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Barangay San Juan had water inundated with knee-deep water, according to Inspector Supt. Leonardo Espina, provincial police chief.

Mostly of those were in the towns of Guagua, Macabebe, Lubao and San Fernando.

Police have fielded at least 1,000 policemen to maintain peace and order for the Undas (Feast of the Dead), which is observed in largely Catholic Pampanga every Nov. 1.

Village officials have complemented the police force with 2,000 more homes. Army soldiers from the 69th Infantry Battalion helped keep watch in evacuation assistance centers. But the police chose not up to 20 towns and town cities.

For the holidays, Espina said policemen have also been deployed to secure shopping malls and free for related to effort to thwart terror attacks or crimes.

In Cebu, Gov. Gwe Yap ordered the police, the Land Transportation Office, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council and the Department of Public Works and Highways to set up assistance centers for motorists during All Saints' and All Souls' Days in towns the vacation. Time of traffic in major roads in the province.

In a statement, the provincial information office said the Yapic government was "anticipating the congestion of vacationers from all over the province." Tonette Orejas with a report from Bacolod Arnisa; Inquirer Central Luzon

Tribes try to keep dying ways alive

By Inquirer Mindanao and Inquirer Visayas

(Last of two parts)

AYO SAUL SIBONTING, 88, LAments that her people have abandoned many of their old practices. "Dadi [ritual] their dead since they adopted the ways of their Christian neighbors in the hinterlands of South Cotabato.

She still dearly remembers what tribal [ritual] was like before, circa-1940s, died in the 1940s.

A black coffin shaped like the curve of a crocodile was carved by the family and hanged 48 inches above the ground, suspended on ropes.

The droppings from the embers were collected in a vat for people to dip in earnest and other rubbers. Ayo recalled. "Sharing the dust with the family of the dead makes one part of the family."

Dr. Antonio Montalvan II, an anthropologist, said other tribal people had similar practices, but these were no longer practiced today.

Chasing women

According to Ayo, her ancestors gathered celebrated for almost 60 days when a member of the community died.

The men, with the dead on their backs, chased the women, she said. "There's a belief that even with death, one can still run."

The celebrations was meant to discourage relatives of the dead, such as the young from taking the body away, said Datu Sam, Ayo's son.

While mourning, the family would keep the house because of belief that the spirit of their dead still wandered there, Ayo said.

Cleansing process

"If somebody was then dead or unnatural, blow her nose and will go to clinic of the dead," she said, referring to the belief by or she had stated, that if someone died in a natural way, the soul will go to the magal, a beautiful place like heaven, Datu Sam said.

For the Magindanaon people, the cadaver is cleansed thoroughly in the most venerated details of hygiene that one does regularly in living. And like the old Jewish practice, the body is gently anointed, dressed in a sitting position, and laid while being latched.

The arms of the lying corpse are put cross the chest (right hand on top of the left arm). The body is wrapped with cotton and every hole in the head and lower extremities are tightly sealed with cotton fillings.

It is then wrapped with a thin white cloth, placed on the ground and prepared.

Administering the ritual is a group of panday (priestly men). Their wives, if they are available, assist in the task. In some relatives assigns the tasks to one of a female cadaver. They services are free of charge, but the panday accept nonfee (alms).

Burial before sunset

Like any other tribes which embraced Islam, the Magindanaons bury their dead before sunset.

The panday, who is chosen in kinship with the dead, carries the cadaver to the grave, assisted by two relatives or members of the bereaved family. The body is gently laid, facing the right wall of a correct area of original space.

The panday reads prayers from appropriate Koran verses as he puts the body to, then enough to permanently line the wall well. To cover the thin cloth off the body and hangs it raised with pieces of bamboo rods like a cocoon-like [illegible].

In the past, when aged hardwood were easier to find, graves are still filled over thick, wide boards bridging over the that hadn't length on ground level. The hardwood is now last long enough to carry the weight of the top mud fill and maintain a concrete beneath through time.

As soon as the mound is covered with earth fill, banded stone is placed over the topsoil as prayers are said. A pair of wood markers [illegible] for female and [illegible] for male) are placed, approximating the point where the torso of the buried body are [illegible].

Only perfunctory feasting for improvements and no concrete pavement is allowed on top surface of the mound. If a roof is added, it should provide a mid-space opening for rain to pour in and sunlight to penetrate the top surface.

Burial jars

Except for the Negritos, the tribal people in the Visayas place their dead in wooden caskets or buried jars.

Fr. Francisco Ignacio Alcina, in his book "History of the Islands and the Native of the Bisayas," wrote of jars found in Leyte by Fray Lirio, had recorded some of the burial practices of the ancient Visayans.

Alcina wrote in 1668 that the people used large (cylinder) made of earthenware or heavy-glazed jars. Small children were put in casks called the chiros (small jars) and cerons (small earthen pots).

Most of the dead were buried in a graveyard for ordinary people called the campuson.

The body was first washed thoroughly before it was dressed for the wake. But if the deceased was a slave (alipin) or a rich person, he then, body and hair was anointed with fragrant oil.

It was adorned with gold necklaces and other ornaments, and made to wear his best clothes.

The body was covered with a piece cloth called the sapot and laid on a platform inside the house.

Professional mourners

Professional mourners, called the [illegible] chief and sing the eulogies that was meant "to express grief with a kind of dirge, all in verse, containing his good deeds," Alcina said.

According to anthropologist Fe Landa Jocano, in his book "Sulod Society: A Study in the Kinship System and Social Organization of a Mountain People of Central Panay," the Sulodnon or Panay Bukidnon communities in the hinterland villages of central Panay also dressed their dead in their best clothes and placed them in coffins made from a big tree shaped into a boat. Joefhyn Balane and Ruth Mendoza, Inquirer Mindanao; and Nicolai S. Lubos, Xinnie P. Burgos Jr. and Carlo P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

S.O.S. SORSOGON

Is grateful for the outpouring of support from friends and patrons who have responded to its appeal for help to rebuild Sorsogon's schools, churches, markets, and private homes ravaged by Typhoon Milenyo.

S.O.S. Sorsogon would especially like to thank Mr. Manolong Morato and Ms. Maggie de la Rosa, who kindly aired their appeal in the program, Dial 16, at Channel 4, bringing the plight of the Sorsogon typhoon victims to their listeners.

S.O.S. Sorsogon continues to call on all sympathizers to come to the aid of the Sorsogon casualties, especially the needy who were rendered homeless by the ravages of Typhoon Milenyo. The S.O.S. Sorsogon Volunteers will continue to receive donations to such and in kind until Nov. 15.

The donors who sent in their donations today are: WIS, who sent P10,000; the family of Leo Yee Hong of Magallanes, P5,000; Myrna Delfin, P1,000; C.R., P1,000; Rosa Carbonell, P1,000; Ely de Leon, P1,000; Ed and Carmelo Malabanan, P2,000; and R.S.M., P10,000.

Goods and equipment received by Ophir Dine include: Clair Fragada, books and 6 pairs of brand-new slippers; Rosario Dreano, 1 bag clothes; Nena Dyllaen, 1 box clothes; Uding Caramesola, 1 bag clothes; Carmelo Malabanta, 3 boxes clothes and 1 box shoes; Chita Dino, 1 ballduyan box clothes and 1 box children's clothing; Lolet Wenalan, 1 ballduyan box clothes and shoes; Myrna Jesurian, 2 bags clothes.

The drop-off points for those who wish to donate food, clothing, household items and other goods are the Philam Homes Barangay Hall, West Ave., Quezon City; c/o Ophir Vytiaco-Diaz, 938-4303; and the Sanctuario de San Antonio Convent in Forbes Park.

Cash or checks may be deposited to any branch of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, Account No. 0011-1607-01. Please fax a copy of your donation deposit slip to 373-3484.

For details, call Florinda Duran-Pagsanghan, 920-1817; Ella Duran-Nolasco, 646-9882; Amarenda Grajo-Ureosa, 373-0810 and 938-9844; and Fr. Gerard Doveza, 0918-9008925.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Assoc. Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Face of death changes in Benguet town

Kiltangan is one community where people believe that the dead commune, communicate with the living

By Maurice Malanes
Kiltangan, Bangued

VILLAGE MATES EXPECTED him to be given last respects and buried the traditional way. That meant his corpse, dressing only a red turban and a G-string, would be fastened into a makeshift chair surrounded by bonfires during a seven- or nine-day wake, and entombed beside a boulder or at the mouth of a cave.

Such process was reportedly accorded to someone who, during his lifetime, had hosted a series of *pedit* or traditional feasts during which several pigs and cattle were offered to the gods and spirits.

Under the old traditions of Kiltangan, Bangued, a Kankanaey-ajaran (Ibaloi), the more feasts a person hosted, the higher status he attains in the community. So many people were surprised when Teodoro Bolisik Jr., more known as Lakay (elder) Ingoll, died in 2003 at the age of 91.

Instead of a red turban and a dominantly red G-string, the elder's corpse was made to wear a coat and tie. And he was not made to sit on a chair surrounded by bonfire.

Shortly after Bolisik died, a son drove to Baguio City to get the services of an embalmer. The corpse was placed in a pine-wood coffin, which was festooned not with cattle but with bamboo sticks drilled into the pine lumber. Or to inflate—to use carnal in a coffin as the corpse is not also allowed to wear any metallic object, such as jewelry).

Embalming was first introduced to the town of 16,000 when Marcos Bay-an, another elder and Bolisik's brother-in-law, died in 2000.

"We just injected tiny bamboo sticks on his body and his corpse was smooth (OK, he looks handsome and as if he's just sleeping)," somebody had said during the wake of Bolisik.

Bolisik' three children decided on embalming and on letting their father wear a coat and tie because, they said, he was a former town mayor.

Ardiglam was another factor.

A few years before the elder died, two of his children had converted to "Born Again" Christianity, which seeks to do away with various facets of tradition such as customary burial rites.

But even Teodoro and/or Christianity cannot wipe out old traditions.

During Bolisik' wake, the bereaved family still had to slaughter pigs when the new and fresh status (elder "read" for one sign of great or bad omen.

After the meat was cooked, someone prayed the Christian way, but an elder did it the traditional way offering the meat to the gods and ancestral spirits.

'Amazing Grace' and 'eye-ey'

"Amazing Grace" and other church hymns were interspersed with "eye-ey" chants.

At times of the day of burial, elders performed the "palnao." Rice and meat, plus a glass of wine, were offered to the spirit of the dead. The food and wine were believed to be the dead's packed food while traveling to the spirit world.

But at 8 a.m., a woman pastor led a memorial service for Bolisik before his remains were kept in a concrete tomb near his home.

The next day, the family performed the *dean*, the last rite that required them to buy another pig. Through a traditional priest, the family thanked the gods and spirits and consulted them whether more sacrifices were to come (the ailing family members to they could also live long, stay healthy, prosper and be at peace.

Despite the inroads of Christianity first by the Roman Catholic Church and some Protestant churches, and lately by fundamentalist charismatic and evangelical groups, traditional burial rites and age-old spiritual world views remain strong in Kiltangan, 67 km north of Baguio.

One belief is that the condition of the dead inside the tomb or at the grave site has something to do with the health status of the living. Recently, for example, the coffin of Juanito Magsaysay, who died a few years ago, was reported after his wife Paying left ill. The advice came from a traditional seer whom their children consulted.

Magsaysay's coffin, it turned out, was being eaten by termites, so his children and relatives had to build a new one—which meant another ritual. The family had to buy and butcher some pigs to appease not only Magsaysay's spirit but also the gods and other spirits.

www.caltex.com.ph

What Drives You

The Official Sponsor of
THE AMAZING RACE ASIA
AXN
Exclusive Telecast

Winning the grand prize!

Race to your dream prize in Caltex with Techron's **Amazing Craze Promo!** Go to any Caltex station and get yourself a raffle coupon. Win prizes instantly or text to join the weekly draws. Plus get a chance to bring home a brand new Chevrolet Trailblazer with a year supply of gasoline on the grand draw!

Visit www.caltex.com.ph or see posters and flyers for more details.

TECHRON
What Drives You CALTEX

'Fish cemetery' a reminder of wildlife protection

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Dagupan City

FISHERY OFFICIALS AND MARINE conservationists will light a candle or two today and offer flowers to sea creatures buried in an 80-square-meter cemetery inside the compound of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' research center in Dagupan City.

Wesly Rosario, the center's chief, said the 11 dolphins and two whales buried at the "fish cemetery" did not die in vain.

"They have helped in creating awareness among the people on the need to protect and conserve the sea mammals," Rosario said.

Another benefiting feature respect to animal species that contribute to the balance of aquatic environment was the real purpose of establishing the sanctuary in 1999, he added.

He said that burying the remains of protected fish species around remind people that killing and eating their meat is a crime and is not tolerated by the government.

The first "shrine" of the cemetery was a 1.2-ton whale confiscated in Malabon City in metro Manila, by the BFAR main office. The carcass was sent to Dagupan because the office had no facility to accommodate it.

"It was taken from and we thought of burying it near the marking the area where it was buried," Rosario said. The gravestone was simply marked "Mahw Dick."

Also buried at the cemetery were seven spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*), two Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*), one bottlenosed dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), nine long-snouted dolphins, a dwarf sperm whale (*Kogia simus*) and a giant sea turtle.

The graveyard was spruced up in time for the All Saints' Day observances. The trees surrounding it were trimmed, weeds marking the graves were pulled, and the old pieces of driftwood that served as tracs were changed.

Plans are afoot for more improvements, like the construction of a shed where visitors can stay and for putting up a billboard with photographs of dolphins (with their common and scientific names) so people will have ideas on how the buried animals look like, Rosario said.

A UNIQUE cemetery

Figure of Lucifer standing over Archangel Michael evokes incredible stories

THE DEVIL IS GONE NOW, BUT the figure of Lucifer poised to impale a fallen Archangel Michael continues not only to draw curious crowds but to evoke incredible stories.

The statue (photo, at) atop the tombs of Pantaleon Flores Memorial Park, 6, 1938-May 13 2001), Eugenio S. Antonio (Sept. 6, 1918-May 20, 1967) and Anita Flores (May 20, 1936-Jan. 25, 1983) in a public cemetery in Barangay Alabang City.

Those who stop at the tombs of Pantaleon Flores Memorial Park, 6, 1938-May 13 2001), Eugenio S. Antonio (Sept. 6, 1918-May 20, 1967) and Anita Flores (May 20, 1936-Jan. 25, 1983) in a public cemetery in Barangay Alabang City.

"I remember that the first time I saw it when I was seven, the Archangel and Lucifer were both standing and facing each other," said Alice Adriano, whose mother and grandmother's tombs are located only two meters away.

Adriano and her siblings were at the cemetery again yesterday on their yearly visit.

"We never fail to visit the graveyard, and each time the position of the Archangel changes," Adriano said, adding that with every visit, the figure seemed to be falling down.

"Now Lucifer is already standing over the Archangel with his foot on the latter's back," she said.

Iron enclosure

Adriano said she did not know how the positions of the statue figures changed through the years.

She claimed that some people had tried to destroy the tableau, "so the owners built a stronger enclosure to protect it from ruin."

An iron enclosure estimated to be at least three meters long by two meters wide now surrounds the statues.

Written on the left side of the enclosure is a supposed exchange between Lucifer and the Archangel, on the other side, naked images of a man and a woman face each other.

Time and the elements have done their worst on the supposed conversation.

The words to Filipino can no longer be deciphered except for the last few, supposedly uttered by the Archangel to humankind. "Dio, cuhogan ninyo ako sa langit, kaya ang kasamahan at mesang kinabibilangan ay sabay at lagi pagpapasiyahan ng kapalaran ng lipunan (People help me humble evil and elate good for money and power, the rest of all seven lifes)."

According to Alex Quintero, administration officer of the cemetery, an unreasoned incident has taken place involving the tableau since he got the job more than a year ago.

"We just know it's owned by the Bernardo family and has not been visited since the time I was assigned here," he said. Manoy C. Carvajal

Is it cheaper to live or to die?

Front page A1

mental Panteonin Pax as a place where families and friends could pay their last respects in their departed loved ones.

Spokesmen Mabini and Medrano Aquino were among the first to be serviced by Panteonin Pax, which now has 61 chapels in its three branches—Bonifacio City, Quezon Avenue in Quezon City, and Sucat in Parañaque. Next year it plans to add seven more chapels.

250 wakes a month

Dionisio says a Panteonin Pax parlor has about 250 wakes a month. Compare this with the P50,000 to P175,000 cost of his funeral services and you come up with something like P12.5 million to P87.5 million in monthly revenues.

But Dionisio points out that only about 60 percent of clients or friends and relatives of the dead pay the cost of the funeral services. The others are memorial or life plan holders.

His funeral services include the coffin and a five-day viewing, plus transport and burial. The price depends on the kind of coffin, the chapel and the hearse. The cost of the package does not include the burial lot or cremation.

Dionisio said the most expensive service that Panteonin Pax has rendered so far amounted to P1.3 million with a bronze casket worth P700,000.

Costs do not include food for visitors. For poorer clients, biggest cuts that cost less than P100 a can and coffin are served. For the wealthy there is full catering charge by the wake and designer clothes for burial.

FUNERAL HOMES were once the rule. The 12-story Sanctuarium has an atrium, elevators with a view, 23 vigil chapels complete with fully furnished family rooms and bathrooms, a flower shop and coffeeshops. (See story in Business, Page B8.)

(DOY ALVAREZ)

Cemeteries

Manila Memorial Inc., one of the biggest private cemeteries in the country, has six parks in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. Manila Memorial's 2937-hectare Capas unit has the lowest price for a lot in P23,000 in Davao while the range is about P46,000 to P350,000 for lawn lots in Manila.

Manila Memorial is owned by several businessmen led by billionaire Enrique Razon Jr. and the SGV Group, the Sapalo-Bautista, Villareal and Sarmiento-Reyes. It set up the first memorial park in the country in 1964 at Sucat, Parañaque, where Nitoy Aquino is buried.

But as private cemeteries cater more to the wealthy, the prices of the lots can go higher for those who want to get a lot that can accommodate several bodies—ideally for families. The range is from P300,000 in Davao to P600,000 in Manila.

Cheapest

But the really rich buy what are called family estates that can accommodate 15 to 50 lots. The price tag—P800,000 to P1.6 million.

But of course, burying the dead need not be as costly as in the private cemeteries.

Burying the dead can cost as little as P5,000 at the Bol Memorial Home in Tondo, Manila, a third-class funeral parlor. Its prices, Caridad Mangubat, says the parishes involved in the house of the dead. The cheapest service is P5,000, which includes a coffin, flights, processing of papers and transport.

But Sol Memorial also has an expensive package—P900,000—for a metal casket, viewing equipment, chandeliers, carpet, embalming, processing of papers and funeral emails.

The poor usually bury their dead in public cemeteries.

Governments run cemeteries in Manila like the Bagumbayan Catholic Cemetery, Heavenly Catholic Cemetery, Holy Rosary Catholic Cemetery, Tipas Cemetery and Aglipayan Cemetery in Barangay Tapul-Tipas, charge a burial fee of P1,000 but the local government gives discounts to poor families.

However, the fee is good for only five years, after which the bones are exhumed and removed, to give way to another body.

In Muntinlupa City, Public Cemetery Administrator Ivo Rosales says the basic of a four-by-eight-meter, "apartment style," costs P1,500 for five years without renewal or extension.

Bone crypt

Anxiety to be reburied after five years are placed in a "bone crypt" along with those previously exhumed after the lease had expired.

The lease of a lot for a private mausoleum in Public for the first five years and renewal fee of P50 per year after the first five years. Those leasing will shoulder the cost of constructing the tomb—P14,000 to P50,000. However, there are no longer available lots for lease at the public cemetery.

At Manila North Cemetery, officer in charge Ed de la Cruz says a six-by-eight-meter public lot costs P1,200. The niche or where the coffin will be placed costs from P1,200 for an ordinary one to P8,500. The rent reminder is for five years.

The apartment type costs P1,000 per year for a minimum of five years. Once the contract expires, the body is placed in a depository for a poor P75,000 storage fee); exhumation fee is P2,000.

At La Loma Cemetery, one of the biggest public cemeteries, Simeon Ortaez, interviewed and said carries a 40-years lease/holder contract. Contract lots are more expensive at P10,000 per sq m and also carry 40-year leaseholder contracts. Mini-reports from Sara Soriano-de, Arlene Rimbo and Margaux Ortiz

Columbaries gaining popularity in RP

Front page A1

find a cemetery. "Churches offering [columbaries] is just a small step in the interpretation of the age-old tradition of the Church taking care of their dead."

In early Christian days, cremation was viewed as a pagan act and a denial of the flesh that of the resurrection, that it was expressly forbidden.

Cremation barlifted

However, in 1963 an instruction from the Holy Office (now the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith) lifted the restrictions. It said that the practice was allowed except when it were against Christian beliefs.

In 1983, the late Pope John Paul II promulgated the revised Code of Canon Law, which said that, "The Church earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burying the bodies of the dead be observed; it does not, however, forbid cremation unless it has been chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching." (Canon 1176)

In the Philippines, the Archdiocese of Manila released in November 1998 a circular to priests in the diocese which echoed the recommendations of the Vatican.

"The Church is always lost to accept cremation," says Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales. "But they realized that cremation is just doing within our hours what the natural process does in five years."

Since then, columbaries, run by the Church for a relatively long time, have become popular.

Joint ventures

Recently, private companies have entered into joint ventures with religious orders. The Columbary of Sto. Niño de Jesus is an enterprise between Redcrest Development Corp. and the Augustinian fathers. The Shrine of St. Therese Columbary is a collaboration between Megaworld Resources Corp. and the Bishops Ordinariate.

The Columbary of Sto. Niño de Cebu stands on a 1.7-hectare Augustinian property in Quezon City, while it's private, commercial, the columbary will house around 120,000 niches when completed by next year, says Liz Reyes, president of the columbary.

"This is a very different way of going more," says Reyes of the project. "It's modern, it's a celebration of life. It's inhibits (the time when) he or she will have. There's no more crying scenes, of screaming ... there are gone."

'Al fresco vaults'

Also under construction is a 1,000-unit, P180-million chapel which the Augustinians hope will be inaugurated in Quezon City.

The Shrine of St. Therese Columbary at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City lies on a 8,344-square-meter land owned by the Military Ordinariate, a decree for soldiers. It is set to be completed. Of the planned 30,000 niches, 7,000 "al fresco" or outside-ventilated vaults are more ready. It has around 70 interments, managers said.

Bedside says that for the Catholic Church, columbaries are not businesses. "The Church needs money (but) they're never in business. It's because of that ambivalence [that] most churches are in financial trouble."

Priests are generally not involved in the columbary's business operations.

However, the Augustinians are to take over once all the vaults have been completed and sold. "Once you make a purchase, a portion of the customer price will go directly to a trust fund, which will be managed by the Augustinians that covers the maintenance. No more monthly or yearly fees," says Atty. Rodolfo of Redcrest Development Corp.

Although on Catholic grounds, columbaries are not exclusively for Catholics. "You'll be surprised there are Muslims and non-Catholics here," says Magsi. Diaz's Manila Memorial Park-Parañaque Catholic rituals are not allowed there.

GRAND OPENING Columbarium at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City lies on a 8,344-square-meter land owned by a diocese for soldiers. A total of 30,000 vaults like this one are planned. (DOY ALVAREZ)

Buyers from all walks of life

Buyers of columbarium vaults come from all walks of life and religion, Bedside and professionals, Japanese, Koreans and Chinese.

Compared with traditional burial, cremation and columbarium are cost less.

In 2004, traditional burial costs including the memorial lot, casket and cremation, were pegged at around P245,000. "Today, it could be around P350,000 to P450,000," says Reyes.

In the Columbary of Sto. Niño de Cebu, each vault can contain up to two urns, and can be in the upper, middle or lower part of the column or wall. Cost of space for four urns in the columbary's memorial wall ranges from P88,000 to P121,000.

Prices depend on location

Inside the sanctuary, price body depend on the level of the vault as well as its location within the area. Cost of space for two urns range from P50,000 to P97,000 for the lowest level vaults in the garden section of the sanctuary—the area nearest the altar—being the most expensive.

At the Shrine of St. Therese Columbary, prices range from P14,000 to P280,000 for vaults that can hold two urns. Niche size, also depending on the level, blanks are 9.84 inches high, 13.19 inches wide and 18.11 inches deep.

Memory

Aside from the cost, convenience is another reason most people are considering cremation. "Relatives of those interred can call on up to request for the urn to be taken home. It normally happens on All Saints' Day, a month inside and the crowds," says Bedside.

Are columbaries here to stay?

"The hallowed ground is not always a given. It's always the people," says Bedside. "Hallowed ground is always about the person, Memory [one]. That's where God comes in."

Baguio bar buries negative thoughts for a fee

Front page A1

bury their pet peeves and negative thoughts for Halloween and All Saints' Day and Singalan.

A local activist bumping a notion to burning the name of retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, whose human rights groups have linked to the killings of members of leftist organizations and other militants.

Another person also paid to "bury" television host Ces Aquino and her game show "Deal or No Deal."

The unknown patron added an epitaph that was so ambiguous it became a topic of conversation: "There are about a hundred or more friends to go out of cost. You are the topic."

More Filipinos than American

"I made up the well because it seemed a good idea at the time and my friends were ready to shell out cash so they can have fun," said Bedside.

He and partner Dennis Pilares, a registered nurse, had just bought the 20-year-old bar, which earned its reputation by hosting costume parties every Halloween.

But Singalan said he believed that burying dark thoughts was more the custom in the summer capital than the American Halloween festivities, nevertheless adding the fact that Singalan was essentially an American city built by the colonial government in 1900.

As a child, Singalan said, he remembers visiting a small park at Camp John Hay called the "Cemetery of Negatives."

Monument to values

One of the few John Hay landmarks left untouched when the former American out and now-commercial base was converted into a tourism estate, the graveyard of negative thoughts is actually popular for the wrong reasons.

Tourists refer to it as the "Lost Cemetery" or the John Hay "Spirit Cemetery" because the tombstones in this park are decorated with cartoon-like statues.

There's a fat-wearing man named "Mountain Patriot." Across from him stands a yellow duck named "Chewchee Likee" and a smoothing boy called "Shoogie Dowel Chek."

Other advocacies

J.D. Ace Saroe Mag, John Wightower, the camp's last American commander before it was demilitarized and turned over to Philippine control, owned the cemetery in 1979 as a monument to values.

A tombstone sees to the pub door challenges "religious conservatives," and adds: "What's wrong with condoms?"

Beside it a tombstone on AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome), with the cryptic epitaph: "Whether it's immunodeficiency or immune, please don't start a global epidemic."

Some of the names that have found their way to the wall come from people with grudges in busy Singalan said.

The name of Baguio Councilor Galo Pacquio is scribed on one tombstone for advocating a curfew for all nightclubs and bars in the city.

SMART Buddy Ang Saya!

Sa SMART Buddy

Paskong PaBonus

may Bonus Load ka na, pwede ka pang maging Milyonaryo!

Over ₱60 MILLION WORTH of BONUS LOAD
+ ₱1 MILLION CASH in the Grand Draw to be given away!

Mas maraming load, mas maraming bonus load!

Kaya mag e-Load lang ng mag e-Load sa inyong suking tindahan!

Promo Period: November 1 - December 23, 2006
Bonus load cut-off: November 30, 11:59pm & December 20, 2006, 11:59pm
₱1 Million Raffle cut-off: December 20, 2006, 11:59pm
Raffle Draw Date: December 23, 2006, 2pm
See flyers for details
*₱1.00/text.

Aplus METRO
Editor Ernesto G. Dipasupil
Send us your feedback: ... Text us at ... (Globe or 283 Smart) | E-mail us at ...

Cops, aides in full force to secure cemeteries

By Alcuin Papa

A TOTAL OF 3,400 POLICEMEN will be deployed starting today in Metro Manila's 63 cemeteries to maintain peace and order during the yearly commemoration of All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) and All Souls' Day (Nov. 2).

Metropolitan Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Reynaldo Varilla said the policemen would be augmented by around 5,000 "force multipliers" composed of security guards, barangay watchmen and members of radio and text groups.

Anticrime drive

He added that the deployment is part of the Philippine National Police's anticriminality campaign and their efforts to handle the threat of terrorism.

"We cannot predict when terrorists will strike but we are very well prepared. We have sufficient arms, bodies and we have coercive vesting 'just in case,'" Varilla told reporters at a press conference in Camp Crame yesterday.

Some 2,000 traffic enforcers will also be deployed to help ensure the smooth flow of traffic as roads leading to cemeteries in Metro Manila are expected to be congested.

"We are coordinating with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to make sure that there will be no traffic congestion," Varilla said.

Varilla said the NCRPO has also set up a command center at Camp Crame to monitor the situation in the cemeteries.

Police Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, director of the Police Security and Protection Group, said they have also set up a command center at the Manila North Cemetery.

Bartolome said they have also deployed 1,000 personnel to secure the Manila North Cemetery.

Police Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay, director of the Southern Police District, said they have also deployed 1,000 personnel to secure the Manila South Cemetery.

Police Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, director of the Eastern Police District, said they have also deployed 1,000 personnel to secure the Manila East Cemetery.

Police Chief Supt. Ricardo Marquez, director of the Northern Police District,

Waiting shed operators file robbery raps vs MMDA

Cops, aides in full …

To see page A19

ver, was similar compared to last year's figures, according to Supintent Baldago, who heads a civic relations group assigned to coordinate and keeping order in the cemeteries.

Special permits

He said he expected the bulk of cemetery goods to arrive late evening until early this morning.

In Manila, city health official Dr. Lorraine Sanchez reminded the public that vendors are prohibited from putting up stalls at the entrance and main roads leading to the cemeteries.

"Dinalagan allowed along certain designated side streets, but only for those with special permits from the Manila Business Bureau," she said.

Cleanup

This year, vendors at the North and La Loma cemeteries do not only sell food.

They have also added toys, clothes and even power tools to their merchandise.

In Las Piñas, the city government mounted workdrives to keep the cemeteries clean.

Mayor Imelda Aguilar said that cemeteries, like churches, are sacred places which should not be turned into dumps.

Assistance booths

Public assistance booths, on the other hand, have been set up in Valenzuela City's three public and two private cemeteries.

Traffic enforcers, health officers and police have also been deployed to these areas, said Mayor Rexlon Gatchalian.

With Edwin C. Tiarzo Jr., Tina G. Santos and Jocelyn R. Uy

By DJ Yap and Tarra V. Quismundo

TWO MASTERMINDS OF WAITING sheds on Edsa yesterday charged officials of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) with robbery for allegedly stealing the sheds' names and trades in their deals last month.

The charges were filed by Jaime Castillo, lawyer of High Desert Philippines Inc. and High Desert Scrap Associates.

Named respondents were Roberto Esquivel, head of the MMDA sidewalk clearing operations group (SCDG), Francis Marmaro, head of the agency's landscape division and retired Col. Benjamin Defensor, chief of the SCDG.

A complaint filed by Castillo in the Quezon City prosecutor's office accused the officials and personnel of Sunday taking the materials, arrow and cables of 15 of their waiting sheds last month.

Based on a report by High Desert's field coordinator and inspector Manuel Balbuena Jr., Esquivel and his men took the electrical materials from the structures on Oct. 14, 21 and 28.

On Oct. 26, the sidewalk cleaning operations group dismantled four of their waiting sheds and took the advertising billboards and panels mounted on the structures.

Castillo said it was Marmaro who supervised the removal of the electric meters and cables, while Esquivel ordered the tearing down of the four waiting sheds.

According to Castillo, there was an "element to gain" on the part of MMDA officials to evidenced by their refusal to return the materials they had taken from his clients.

Earlier, the two companies asked a Quezon City court to block MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando from dismantling their sheds and the advertising materials mounted on them, and sought P2.5 million in damages.

The civil case dismissed Sun, a ruling order by Fernando to dismantle advertisements displayed on the sheds.

The petition for a temporary restraining order, as well as the damage suit, is being heard by Judge Henri Jean Paul Inting of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 95, who has yet to issue a ruling.

Sought for comment, MMDA General Manager Robert Nazareno said that his operations did not violate any law when they tore down the waiting sheds.

"We welcome the filing of the case because we feel that that's the best way to settle the issue. All our moves are planned and we consulted our lawyers," he said in a phone interview.

"Why would it be robbery when we did was confiscate the materials? And there's nobody who benefited from it in a personal way. Nobody made money out of it. The things we confiscated are in our field of fices," Nazareno added.

7 stores raided for selling fake drugs

By Maryann C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation (NBI) last week raided seven drugstores in Metro Manila for allegedly selling fake medicines.

Agents of the NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) seized at least P40,000 worth of counterfeit Viagra, a popular anti-impotence drug, from Dynamos Drugs, located at 1402 Mercedes St. in Sta. Cruz, Manila and Imperial Drug House at 810 C. Bonifacio Avenue in Quezon City.

Also raided were JSG Drug House at 1820 Dimasalang St. in Sampaloc, Medical City Pharmacy which has two branches in Manila City—at 1342 Recto avenue (Espana branch) and 1846-C Juan St., Pandacan; Drug & 246 Libertad St. in Mandaluyong City; and Barney's Pharmacy at 765 M. Natal St., Navotas.

NBI IPRD chief Ace Antonio said the owners of the stores face charges for selling unregistered drugs and violating Republic Act 9293 or the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs. The raids were conducted simultaneously on Oct. 26 after Judge Reynaldo Bosit of the Manila Regional Trial Court issued seven search warrants.

The misdemeanor said distribution of this drug, Pfizer, had filed a complaint after learning about the proliferation of fake Viagra in the metropolis.

Sandigan decision showed truth on my side, says Mayor Binay

By Tarra V. Quismundo

CELEBRATING HIS LATEST court victory, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said yesterday that the Sandiganbayan's dismissal of the graft case filed against him merely confirmed that the charges were baseless.

In a statement issued by his counsel, Binay said the antigraft court's decision was in favor of the truth. That the case, filed by the Ombudsman based on the complaint of his political rival, Roberto Brillantes, should not have reached the Sandiganbayan in the first place.

"The Sandiganbayan's dismissal of the case is a most welcome development. It confirms what we have been saying all along—that there was no probable cause to warrant the filing of the case against Mayor Binay," said Binay's lawyer Emmanuel Tomines.

The antigraft court's decision cleared Binay and his co-respondents of allegations that they purchased overpriced office furniture and fittings for the new City Hall from 1999 to 2004.

In junking the case, the Sandiganbayan said there was no probable cause to try Binay, city officials Nicanor Santiago, Luz Tamano, Rosario Aquilino, several Jane and John Does and three others in spite of the fact that was accused of the contrary. The court said the complaint failed to cite facts showing bad faith on the part of Binay and his alleged conspirators.

The complaint alleged that the furniture was overpriced by more than P4 million. But according to the court, "the information is devoid of any particulars as to how the figures were arrived at."

"Clearly, the insufficiency of the information is manifest from the lack of factual averments in the complaint," read the five-page resolution of the Sandiganbayan's Third Division signed by Associate Justice Godofredo Legaspi.

Binay's camp had said the Ombudsman filed the case with "undue haste," adding that the Commission on Audit had conducted that the funds use was overpriced by comparing purchases of hundreds of different quality, make and prices.

Binay's counsel was sure after he survived the Ombudsman's suspension order leveled against him on Oct. 17. The order also covered Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, and the city's 14 councilors who were accused of maintaining "ghost" employees on the city's payroll.

Binay had barricaded himself in his City Hall office after the order was issued to him. The decision, however, ended when the Court of Appeals issued a temporary restraining order to his favor. The appellate court's decision is currently under appeal.

Every person of the Philippines is already more than 1000 centavos poorer. But please consider this: Could we go on if not be reminded again. If every Inquirer reader did so for a year, we all would save 1.4 million trees, 980 million kilowatt hours of electricity, and 56 million gallons of oil. So please ask your friends and family to donate or sell their newspapers to the Old Newspaper Drive or participate in your schools' newspaper drive with Scholastic. Both there and get a discount to classroom library for your class. For Metro Manila newspaper pickups, call Linda Bonda/Target at 911-600-6000/600-6611. For regions (02)911-6000 loc. 6611, for Cebu (032)231-6000, and for Davao 285-1666 (722).

NEWSPAPER DRIVE

SCHOLASTIC

METROBANK PURPLE HEARTS CLUB

A CONSOLEUSE man fills a basket filled with mud as he searches for gold nuggets in a pit in Photo gold mine, near Bunia in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Oct. 30. Picture taken Oct. 30. REUTERS

US seeks guarantees over Iran reactor

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States wants guarantees that a Russian-built nuclear reactor in Iran will not advance a weapons program but does not think differences over the issue will block a UN sanctions resolution against Tehran, a senior US official said on Monday.

The Bushehr power plant is cautiously due to begin operation early next year. The Russians want the project to go ahead. A sanctions resolution against Iran is being haggled over in New York and sounds Bushehr, although Washington has previously urged work at the plant stopped.

The US position has varied in recent days, said State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack said he did not see the Bushehr deal as blocking the UN resolution against Iran, which follows Tehran's refusal to give up sensitive enrichment activities on Aug. 31 deadline.

Iran says its nuclear program is for power generation purposes and not to build an atomic bomb.

"You [with] a deal [in the Bushehr plant] shouldn't pose an obstacle to passage of the kind of resolution that we, as well as others, think needs to be passed in this regard," McCormack told reporters.

He said the United States wanted objective guarantees that safeguards laid out by the Russian government over the years—including for spent fuel to be returned to Russia so it could not be diverted for weapons use—would be met.

"There safeguards I would also say, first of all, the construction to take place; second of all, the fuel to be delivered, monitored and then returned, once it had already been used," he said.

"Essentially, what you would be talking about is dealing with a promising construction project in which there are some objective guarantees," he added.

The nations that have the plant is only set to be delivered in the early part of next year, and the Bush administration is hoping this issue will be resolved by then.

"There's a lot of time between now and then. We'll see what the Iranian behavior brings us and we'll see what the final outcome is with regard to this particular resolution," said McCormack.

The UN resolution, drafted by France in consultation with the United States, has come how was to all 15 UN Security Council members.

It exempts Bushehr from sanctions but says Russia must check with a Security Council committee if it delivers material that can be used for weapons.

No meeting is scheduled yet, although one is expected later this week among the five permanent Security Council members with veto power, the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France—as well as Germany, sister negotiators.

Participants close to the negotiations said Russia, among other complaints, was objecting to Bushehr being included in the resolution as the first place to enter legal under the 1995 contract Iran and Russian Treaty.

Russia's UN ambassador Vitaly Churkin, after a meeting of the six powers last Thursday said of Bushehr, "It has nothing to do with the resolution because it's a powerful nuclear facility which we have been helping Iran to build in full conformity with the Nonproliferation Treaty." UN negotiators are expected to take at least another two weeks, Diplomats declined to predict a date but said it would be before the 15 Thanksgiving holiday when a new Congress takes office. REUTERS

HELL.com up for sale

LOS ANGELES—NO ONE WAS BUYING HELL on Friday—or at least as sold for $600,000.

HELL.com was among hundreds of Internet domain names up for auction in Hollywood, Florida, by domain asset management provider Moniker.com, a unit of marketing services firm Sarason Corp.

The names got a minimum price of $1 and how can the undetermined economic conditions of high interest after the electronic address, Hell.com, sold for about $12 million earlier this year. But there were no takers with bids failing to reach the reserve price.

"The world is still alive and well. Nobody is going to hell right now," Sarason Chief Executive James Rudd told Reuters, adding that the domain could now be part of a silent auction.

Moniker was selling HELL.com on behalf of a group called BAT PR LLC, whose founder Internet investor Sarason registered the name in 1999.

It's not the first time that Amazon has tried to sell HELL.com. He put the address on the auction block in April 2000, on a morning bid of $1 million.

In an interview with Reuters in 2000, Sarason said members of The Third org, an enigmatic collective of digital artists and creative visionaries, were using HELL.com as a private destination for their work.

According to the site, HELL.com is a "private parallel web" not accessible with a Web browser.

The auction on Friday included a list of domain names such as cameras.com, which pulled in $1.5 million. Insurance.com that sold for $2,025,000 and Infinity.net which went for $250,000.

Domain.com, an address with the new extension for mobile devices, went for $200,000, while Sex.com pulled in $100,000.

A boom in Internet advertising driven by companies such as Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc. has sent prices for sought-after domain names soaring. Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Jimmy Carter's son in Senate race

ATLANTA—Former President Jimmy Carter disagreed if it will become a record afternoon to find a dozen or so people soaking in green tea. The 52-year-old Democrat framed his bottom-grin and smoothly cooked his cousin. Following in his footsteps, a man with his name got struggled to his come inception. He switched at the head of a distinguished political role. "I'm Jack Carter. I'm the one who's running," he said. The debate used the 2006 governor as the first point of an endorsing campaign for the Senate in Nevada. Carter, a millionaire investment consultant, says perhaps coincidence make his first bid for public office and ran against a well-funded incumbent Republican, Sen. John Isakson. AP

Iran warns vs sanctions

TEHRAN—President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Monday warned Iran would react firmly to any UN sanctions imposed on Tehran over its contested nuclear program. "We are not looking for tension but any action that is [why] or will result in aggression will [be] response from the Iranian people," said Ahmadinejad during a gathering in Pishva in Tehran province. Iranian officials have already issued the Islamic republic would not back against any more hard sanctions but have said the country will be willing to resume talks with the West if it suspends its uranium enrichment. Officials are arguing [to] by Western powers at the UN Security Council to impose sanctions against Tehran over its refusal to halt uranium enrichment. Tehran has disagreed up to resume talks for sensitive activity. AFP

Nato kills 55 Afghan rebels

KABUL—Nato soldiers killed 55 insurgents in an intense battle in southern Afghanistan Monday in which a foreign soldier also died, the force said. The alliance says soldiers from the Netherlands, Britain and Canada killed the insurgents in Helmand province in the south-west of Afghanistan. Nato said in a statement. "Initially we engaged and killed 30 insurgents and wounded 20 more earlier today in the Darvishan district of Zabul province." The statement said. AFP

The WORLD

Edna Lorenzo B. Bueza

New bird flu strain detected in China

HONG KONG—SCIENTISTS IN HONG KONG AND the United States have detected a new strain of H5N1 bird flu virus in China and warned it might have started another wave of outbreaks in poultry in Southeast Asia and move deeper into Eurasia.

The strain, called the "Fujian-like virus" because it was first isolated in China's southern Fujian province in March 2005, has increasingly been detected since October 2005 in poultry in six provinces in China, displacing other H5N1 strains.

The researchers also have become resistant to medicine, while China began using on a large scale from September 2005 to protect poultry from H5N1, said the scientists.

The researchers are from the University of Hong Kong, including virologists Guan Yi and Malik Peiris, and Rob Webster of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the United States.

"The predominance of this Fujian-like virus appears to be responsible for the increased prevalence of H5N1 in poultry since October 2005 and recent human infection cases in China," they said in an article published in the US-based Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (www.pnas.org).

"It has already caused poultry outbreaks in Laos, Malaysia and Thailand, and human disease in Thailand. It is likely that this variant has already initiated a third wave of transmission throughout Southeast Asia and may spread further in Eurasia."

The first wave of H5N1 epizootics occurred in late 2003 and 2004 in many parts of Asia. The second wave started in China's Qinghai Lake in May 2005 and that strain has since been found in parts of Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The virus has killed more than 230 people since late 2003 and remains largely a disease among birds. But experts fear it could trigger a flu pandemic and kill millions of people if it mutates so as to a strain that can pass from human to human.

The researchers collected 13,220 fecal samples from chickens, geese and ducks in poultry markets in six Chinese provinces between July 2005 and June 2006. Of these, 1,284 tested positive for H5N1.

But genetic sequencing of viruses collected from October 2005 onwards showed the Fujian strain was clearly becoming predominant over other H5N1 strains. Between April and June this year, 101 out of 108 H5N1-positive samples were of the Fujian type.

"That's pretty conclusive proof that this new variant is predominant," said Louis Smith, one of the researchers in the Hong Kong team.

To test how well vaccinated poultry could stand up to various strains of H5N1, the researchers collected 1,113 blood samples from chickens from November 2005 to April 2006.

Only 180 samples, or 16 percent, tested positive for H5N1 antibodies. They were exposed to 3 strains of H5N1—namely the Vietnam, Dongting and Fujian-like strains.

The antibodies managed to neutralize the Vietnam and Guiyang strains, but had little or no effect on the Fujian virus.

"The market poultry, many of them don't have antibodies against H5 virus and those that do are not well protected against the Fujian virus, which is why we think the Fujian-like virus has been able to grow because other [strains] have been suppressed," Smith told Reuters in an interview.

"What happens with vaccines is that you basically introduce something that kills off most of the viruses, but there are always going to be some viruses that can escape from it." Reuters

CONSTRUCTION continues on the Burj Dubai skyscraper in Dubai, Oct. 29. Set to be the world's tallest tower on completion in 2008, Burj Dubai has now clocked up 79 floors. —AFP

World's tallest skyscraper rising in Dubai

DUBAI—SLATED TO BECOME the world's tallest skyscraper and symbol of a city set to transform its desert landscape, "Burj Dubai" or Dubai Tower is rising in parallel with the profits of its prosperous Persian Peninsula.

With two stories added every week, Burj Dubai is taking shape as the centerpiece of a $20-billion venture featuring the construction of a new district, "Downtown Burj Dubai," that will house 30,000 apartments and the world's largest shopping mall.

Launched in early 2004, the construction of the tower by South Korea's Samsung should be completed at the end of 2008 and cost $1 billion, according to Greg Lane, the Emaar official in charge of Burj Dubai.

Burj Dubai already has 79 stories, raking its height to more than 300 meters. But even before having gone that far, Emaar is still not revealing the tower's final height.

"At the moment, we are not answering. We'll say it's [still far] more than 700 meters (2,296 feet) and more than 160 stories. The people who need to know, know," Lane, a 30-year-old New Zealander, told AFP.

The world's tallest inhabited building is its "Taipei 101" in Taiwan, which is 508 meters (1,666 feet) tall.

"At the moment, we've got around 2,500 workers on the tower site alone. We expect that to peak about a year from now at over 3,000. And for the whole site at any point in time, when the whole Downtown Burj Dubai district is under construction, there will be 20,000 more working here," Yang said.

Some 1,500 of those laborers forced by one of many firms working for Emaar donated tools for two days earlier this year to protest over poor working conditions and delays in the payment of salaries.

The protests disappeared into a void, during which supplement and raw were smashed.

According to Yang, the protesting laborers did not work on the tower site and construction was therefore not affected.

"We actually work very closely with the contractors and authorities to ensure conditions for the labor are adequate and good. So we were a little disappointed that they weren't completely satisfied," Yang said. AFP

Ex-WB exec warns vs environmental disaster

LONDON—WORLD LEADERS must act urgently to avert a looming environmental catastrophe, the author of a major British report on climate change warned Monday.

In a report which sounded a wake-up call, former World Bank chief economist Sir Nicholas Stern singled out the United States, China and India as powerhouse nations whose backing is crucial for a global solution.

"There is still time to avoid the most massive of climate change, if we act now and act internationally," he said, launching his 600-page report in London.

"The task is urgent. Delaying action even by a decade or two will make a far more costly story. We must not let that window of opportunity close." His message was backed by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who was at the report's launch in central London with his finance minister and likely successor Gordon Brown.

"Should we fail to rise to this challenge, I don't believe we will be able to explain ourselves to future generations," said Blair.

He warned of potentially "disastrous" consequences unless action was taken urgently, adding that the world could not spare the five years it took to negotiate the Kyoto protocol.

The 1997 agreement to reduce greenhouse gases stalled after the United States failed to ratify it. President George W Bush claiming it would handicap US industry.

Blair said that negotiations must aid in last year's G8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, some more "key" to securing action after the Kyoto agreement expires in 2012. AFP

The Stern review estimates that unabatable inaction could cost the equivalent of between five and 20 percent of global gross domestic product every year forever.

Britain's environment secretary David Miliband later told Sweden on the failure to act swiftly could cost more than World Wars I and II and the Great Depression of the 1930s combined.

By contrast, the cost of action is estimated to be around one percent of GDP, a "manageable" income equivalent to some of the most pessimistic forecast, Stern said.

Carbon pricing and policies to support low-carbon technologies are among the possible solutions proposed by the report, which also advocated expanding international frameworks on emissions trading, technology cooperation, deforestation and adaptation to climate change.

Stern came to the British in an interview that former US vice-president Al Gore, who earlier this year released "An Inconvenient Truth," a documentary about climate change, will become one of his personal advisers on green issues.

In an earlier BBC radio interview, Stern warned that global warming, if left unchecked, could have an impact many times worse than last year's Hurricane Katrina in the US.

He also suggested that rich countries should pay more than their share to offset their higher levels of carbon emissions.

His report, thought to be the first have responsible used the Stern to the debate on climate change "is an economic rather than a scientific, was welcomed by green groups and others.

"It clearly makes a case for action and climate change is not a problem that Europe can put in the 'too difficult' pile," European Commission spokesperson Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen said.

Barry Gardiner, of environmental group WWF, said there had provided "a wake-up call to the world," while Brendan Barber, of London's Durham Trade Unionist, said it represented "a stepchange in the way we think about climate change." AFP

Pinochet placed under house arrest

SANTIAGO—FORMER CHILEAN dictator Augusto Pinochet was formally placed under house arrest on Monday, raising speculation that he may for the first time face trial for any of the 3,000 murders and torments committed during his 1973-1990 regime.

Pinochet was charged with alleged crimes in Villa Grimaldi, a secret jail where Michelle Bachelet, now president of Chile, was once tortured, along with her mother, in 1975.

On Friday, Judge Alejandro Solis charged Pinochet in his case of "forced disappearance," our murder and 23 cases of torture and signed a warrant for his house arrest.

Pinochet, 90, stayed at his home in La Dehesa, one of Santiago's southern neighborhoods, where he has resided since leaving public life in 2002.

Pinochet was placed under house arrest on three prior occasions after losing the immunity he enjoyed as a former de facto ruler of Chile.

However, he has never stood trial for the deaths and tortures during his military regime, according to unofficial tenure.

The former dictator, who ruled with an iron fist for 17 years, is already under investigation for alleged tax evasion and fraud following the discovery of as much as 27 million dollars in Washington's Riggs bank and other foreign banks, as part of a US Senate investigation in June 2004.

Villa Grimaldi, the name given to a former mansion in Santiago, was a torture center from 1973 until 1978 run by Pinochet's feared secret police, DINA.

Bachelet was a medical student in 1975 when she and her mother, Angela Jeria, were imprisoned and tortured for a month after the arrest of Bachelet's father, air force general Alberto Bachelet.

Pinochet purged Chile's military after it toppled elected Socialist president Salvador Allende in 1973.

Pinochet has also been charged

PINOCHET

in connection with Operation Colombo, an international effort to murder 119 regime opponents and quiet the bodies to other South American countries exiled by military regimes in July 1975.

When questioned last year about the 119 members of the Revolutionary Leftist Movement who disappeared from custody, Pinochet was quoted in official records as stating: "I regret and suffer for those [human] losses, but God will forgive me if I have committed excesses . . . which I do not believe." AFP

North Korea to conduct 2nd nuke test, says US general

SEOUL—THE HEAD OF US forces in South Korea on Monday predicted North Korea will stage a second nuclear test, as experts said the Stalinist regime's security threat should not overshadow "crimes against humanity" by its rulers.

"I can only surmise that since they've tested one, that seems time in the future we're going to get another test," US Army Gen. Leon LaPorte told a U.S. Hill said.

Referring to the North's nuclear and missile programs, he added: "I think we can expect future tests as part of their program to develop these kinds of very powerful weapons," he said.

The Bee test on Oct. 9 triggered worldwide shock and UN Security Council sanctions. But Bill with a press conference it had not changed the balance of power on the Korean peninsula.

Pyongyang's test would lead the South's 650,000-strong military as well as the 29,000 US troops on the peninsula in case of war, warned the North to give "long and deliberate thought" to what he called the enormous capacity of US air and naval forces in the region.

If North Korea attacked the South "we would quickly and decisively defeat aggression," he said.

Despite what some arms-experts see as the need for a second test to validate the results of the first, Chinese staff have said it had received assurances from North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il that his country has no plans for a second test.

But Kim reportedly added that if others put pressure on Pyongyang, it may take responsible "further measures." Unofficial news reports said suspicious activities had continued in the northeastern area where the first test was staged.

Military sources said there had been numerous activities at Punggye-ri, Kilju county.

"However, it remains unclear whether these activities are related to a second nuclear test or North Koreans are just faking it," one source said.

Pyongyang was warned last week any test would trigger tougher sanctions.

A report prepared by JLA Pipe LLE a global legal firm, and the US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea said the North's rights record should also prompt UN action.

The report, commissioned by former Czech president Vaclav Havel, ex-Hungarian prime minister Gyula Horn and US Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, said the diplomats should be treated on a parallel track with the security threat.

It is foreseen, they said, Kim Jong-Il and the North Korean government "are actively committing crimes against humanity," it allowed as many as one million, and possibly many more, of its own people to die during the famine in the 1990s, they said, and 37 percent of children remain chronically malnourished. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Lining makes World Pool main draw /A22

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres

■ Working-class heroes inducted into the Hall /A24

'Please reconsider'

Top candidate for PSC chair asks boss to stay

By Jove Nazareth

RICHIE GARCIA, EXPECTED TO BE A STRONG candidate to replace outgoing Philippine Sports Commissioner chair William "Butch" Ramirez, is asking his boss to reconsider his plans of resigning soon.

Garcia believes that the departure of Ramirez will ultimately bring more bad than good to the overall Philippine sports picture.

"Every thing is working smoothly and I believe he should stay to provide continuity to the programs (which he started)," Garcia told the Inquirer.

Garcia, a PSC commissioner, said he worries about the impact of Ramirez's resignation on the future programs of the PSC, particularly the ones they have mapped out since they started working together last year.

And though he's being considered as one of possible replacements, Garcia is more focused on carrying out the blueprint drawn up by the current PSC administration for sports.

"We (Ramirez) really want to step down after the Asian Games, but I asked him to reconsider," said Garcia.

Topping their list of concerns would be defending the overall Southeast Asian Games title which the country won for the first time last year. Next year's edition of the SEAG will be held in Thailand.

Ramirez runs the country's drive for victories in the Manila SEAG, a job he will continue to hold when another ILP contingent campaigns in the 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, on Dec. 1-15.

Ramirez had said that he will resign after the Asiad and will leave behind projects aimed at winning the Philippines' first-ever gold in the Olympics in the 2008 edition in Beijing.

"Now your would be challenging — we will defend the SEA Games title and prepare to win the first gold of the country in the Olympics," said Garcia.

Garcia is among the top candidates for the top PSC post together with former commissioner Joey Romero. Former POC president Cojuangco, former Gracing Ahy chief Michael Ilusin and prominent advisers on sports and tycoon Ali Sarmen.

If HE had his way, PSC commissioner Richie Garcia (left) would rather have current PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez staying put than ride into sophisticating programs already running.

RP kayak squad eyes Asiad upset

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A YOUNG, INEXPERIENCED VIT DITIS-trained canoe/kayak team will carry the Philippine colors in the 15th Asian Games.

National coach Lorien Escalante yesterday lured Ivy Serrap for the Doha festival, consisting of teenaged Southeast Asian Games medalists rarring to prove themselves in the regional level.

"We are optimistic of bringing home a medal, maybe even a silver," Escalante told the Inquirer. "This is a young team composed of athletes who have developed discipline and technique at a very young age."

Leading the four, four-man squad is SEAG bronze winner Marvic Acapesla, the lone Southeast Asian paddler during their recent four-up stint in Hungary.

(BY MANA, A12)

Lining makes World Pool main draw

LINING

REYES

BATTAMANTE

Homegrown tilt relives rivalries

De Guzman tops int'l amateur open golf tilt

Tyson confident of Batangas surprise

Southwoods, Orchard make Federation League semifinals

Street football gets boost from Japan star

To Charlie Badion, hero and absent friend

IT SOUNDED LIKE A SHOOT TO KILL OR...

Stop him, the RP national basketball coach was hollered after fruitlessly using his elbow.

He, however, failed to specify who among his five sons on the floor would carry out the urgent mission.

The game remained and the chaos, slippery Chinese ropes, sounding horse all night long, continued to overwhelm officials for the Philippine team.

RP enlisted team members, except for one man, protective gear.

They had listed all their old, unladylike accusations, but the Chinese was just proved too tricky, unstoppable.

By the way, the Philippines, relying on our cunts, invisible trick, went on to stop the Chinese Taipei squad to preserve its basketball supremacy in the region.

...

Many years after that explosive game at the old Rizal Memorial Stadium off Vito Cruz in Manila, when the dynamite-midop had all but been forgotten, Olympian Carlos Badion scattered to having started all the noise-to-noise mischief.

No, Badion did not make a public admission.

For a fact, the final that promptly stopped the peppery Chinese shooting star was booked as Carlos Loyzaga, the Caucasian/Mexican, unfathomable the finest Filipino cager of all time.

During one cozy evening catch-covered 8 Hands in the sportswriting fraternity, Badion related how Taipei's Lin Hsien Chupo (this is the right spelling) suddenly fell, crashing in pain on the floor, after taking a towering knuckler off Loyzaga.

In repeat, the game had all but locked lost for the Philippines, until Lo was taken out of the game—on a stretcher.

The prodigious Taiwanese shooter was rushed to the hospital where he was diagnosed with bloody urine the morning after.

...

Looking back, the electric game must've been played during the 1960 tournament of the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) championship in Manila, the height of the RP Days's foray as the Oriental basketball front.

The national coach who made the urgent earlier must've been the great Lolo Rico.

And he would double the invisible move that stopped Lo, for good as a rush. More ugly, it was akin to twisting a screw, the grip and snap of the mighty fingers unforgiving, precise.

Badion called the trick "no contact," a step below the hell, landing between the thighs, directly on, you, the balls: the invisible.

Anyway, Badion, a Pampanguño who roomed for Magsaysay Tech in the NCAA, went on to eclipse the national team in the 1964 Rome Olympics.

BARE EYE

Renato Trinidad

...

Unfortunately for Badion, Rome would prove to be his Waterloo after he retired and captained his Achilles tendon in a game against Greece.

A new pair of shoes, whose sticks, untried rules granted against the floor, proved to be the culprit.

Badion retired that same year at age 26, when his career was still on its golden, heroic meridiem.

...

Yes, it was also a period when opposition to the Asian basketball focus when commitment themselves lucky to have escaped a safe distance away from Badion and his like.

Badion did not look fearsome. He had fine, charming features, more than enough to have qualified him as a movie hero.

They called him many names, Charlie, Bonnibon, Indiyan, Red Boy, but it was the last one that stuck like a badge on one of the authentic basketball heroes of the Philippines, who introduced the fantastic. But now enthroned) largely shot-breathtaking.

Badion, body built like a refrigerator, was a great scorer, a rare forward with a deathly defense, who was admired, respected and definitely feared by opponents.

He just like many in his era, was robbed to the tune that basketball greats were won not solely through team prowess, but by also preventing the stars on the opposing side from doing their thing, or many what the rest.

...

It was a season when the game, rated you, was not for the pampered and the weak of heart. This you never been brought up, but watch Pido Jarencio of UAAP champion UST grow up as a hardcore ball kid on Badion's lap and start to imitate (Charlie's great hero).

Badion, by the way succumbed to heart failure in 2002, during the World Cup, with the reporter covering the Asian Amateur Boxing Championships in Malaysia.

He very could see brilliantly eighty highlights of that golden era in RP basketball when heroes ever hastened to give their all for flag and country, and were ready to get what they had to dish out in return.

So kindly count this as a belated piece—long overdue—for us about friend and hero, who lived and played in that great but now gone civilization in Philippine sports.

Hot teams part ways

By Mueng B. Cunilla

SAN MIGUEL AND PUREFOODS HAVE finished basically the same paths in the season-ending PBA Philippine Cup.

Both of them started out short but on nine red-hot and are threatening the leaders after the opportunist Brownies and the defending champion Glutton Giants have won their last three games.

But as in anything, even good things come to an end.

Purefoods and San Miguel clash on Friday, when the elimination rounds after observing all-talent' list, and the match would definitely be the highlights of action in the Araneta Coliseum with the immovable force colliding with the irresistible object.

"It promises to be a classic battle," said Purefoods' Ryan Gregorio, whose charges will come into the 7:30 p.m. prime-time showdown.

Purefoods played three games in just over a week, one of them a classic triple overtime thriller over Talk 'N Text that unsettled visitors, now San Lucio and the struggling Alaska team on Sunday at Araneta Coliseum in the Big Dome in Cubao.

GREGORIO

REYES

"We've used to situations like that because we've been in the finals twice (last year)," Gregorio said. "But as it was, we have rested well and we're ready."

San Miguel gasped its form early, dropping its first three games before sealing a three-game deal that brought in Rommel Adducul from Rain or Shine and Lordy Tugade from Red Bull.

Since then, it has all been a walk in the park for the Brownies, with all their three victories coming in runaway fashion.

Losing was the total knock, the Gilmen have improved to a 4-3 from 1-6 (win-loss) to keep the leading Sta. Lucia Realtors (5-1), the Gin Kings (5-2) and Red Bull (4-2) within sight.

Reyes and his Brownies are out for Indiana Duffy at 3-0 clubs and with alot of promise after the reactivation of Danny Seigle and Danny Ildefonso.

"We're still in the process of adjustment," said Jun Miguel's Chot Reyes. "The return of the two Dannys in the line-up should speed up the process."

Harbour Centre taps NU Bulldogs

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY BULLdogs did not have much success in the Chuff basketball tournament since the days of Benny Heldners and Louie Tugade.

NU's help from Harbour Centre. The Bulldogs are going there some bite their proud and loin.

In support of the PBL "Adopt-a-School" program, Harbour Centre owners Eddie Bonoan recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with NU Chief Executive Officer Teddy Boocon Domipe that will help beat the school's cage program.

"It's not new here way to help a team in need," said Bonoan. "NU has a strong basketball team, it has exciting players who are very popular and we want to help NU."

Under the agreement, the Stet Maroon, champions of the second Unity Cup, will be getting $(1 stun Edson Asoro, Jonathan Reyes and 6'4(6.5 Joseph Lingad,)ingo to workers their coming PBL campaigns.

Yin thankful that Mr. Bonoan decided us to be their partner in basketball, I believe our tie-up with Harbour Centre will enhance our image in the basketball community because Harbour Centre is already a proven winner," said Domipe.

"With the exposure they will be getting in playing in the PBL under Harbour's competent coaching staff, I'm sure they will develop their self-confidence and gain maturity."

Reinero and team manager Erick Arevalo are already excited with the prospect of having a future Asiset Taylor the team.

"Fernander is an excellent shooter in the mold of Jimmy Alapag while Reno is a tall leaper who loves to dunk," said "Reinero" Arevalo.

Aside from giving NU the avenue to develop their players, Bonoan said they will also help in recruiting players for the Bulldogs.

PHASE Runners, owner of Harbour Centre (seated, third from right) and National University CEO Teddy Domipe (seated, third from left), are all smiles as they are about to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the coming PBL Silver Cup.

RP kayak squad eyes Asiad upset

From page A28

The 29-year-old lawyer is still on active in the 1,000-m and 500-m singles. He will join Abdon Oliver October in the 500-m doubles. Valentin, 18, won the silver during the 2005 SEAG.

Danny Pantelar , 37, is listed in the 1,000-m singles, while 17-year-old Secret Capo will be the RP hope in the 500-m singles, the same event where he won the bronze during last year's SEAG.

Bandasan, who placed 7th during the Busan Asiad four years ago, said they are banking on strength of character in facing second-best competition from China and Japan.

Graduates and Amputees will be leaving ahead of the team on Dec. 1 to accustom their boats they will use in competition.

Sensing the equipment for competitors also the value bulk of the RP rowers, who will also need an advance team to help them in the pool.

"It's very important that we get there early because if we are late we might get asthma, heavier boats," creating problems Benjie Bonoan said in Jasmine yesterday.

SPORTS

NBA PREVIEW

Mavs have tools to shine

AUSTIN—DALLAS MAVERICKS EXECUTIVE Bonnie Nelson has identified a packaging problem in the NBA: Many good teams in the Western Conference (that the league can avail'vote available playoff positions.

"There are 1oo more-than-eight playoff teams this year," said Nelson, the Mavs' president of basketball operations.

Fortunately for Nelson, the Mavs are unlikely to find themselves desperately searching for reasons to be regular-season wins in early April.

As the league prepares to rip off, Dallas—the reigning Western Conference champion—is regarded as a good pick to repeat, providing the Mavs can fend off advances from San Antonio and Phoenix. In a survey of NBA general managers, the Spurs were picked to win their fourth championship. Dallas finished second in the voting.

When Jose Juan left the Mavs, they had implanted against Miami in the NBA Finals, losing the last four games after winning the first two.

The Mavs' roster has some underpinnings reassurance, with Nelson adding four veterans, three who have been to the NBA Finals.

"On paper we're deeper and more experienced," Nelson said. "We didn't add three players who have been to the Finals by mistake."

Erick Dampier, Josh Howard, Jason Terry and center DeSagana Diop remain starters. Young guard Devin Harris could eventually claim the fifth spot.

One of the new guys, guard Anthony Johnson, has been starring in preseason games and has 6½ rule-experience with the New Jersey Nets.

The Mavs' bench is exciting it potentially matches Erick Dallas to Los Angeles, where now reserve Devean George played on NBA champion-only teams with the Lakers. Also new to the team are defensive specialist Greg Buckner—in his second stint with the Mavs—forward Austin Croshere and rookie Maurice Ager from Michigan State. Croshere played in the 2000 Finals with Indiana. The newcomers join Jerry Stackhouse, one of the top subs in the league.

MOHYTEKI

GEORGE

Of course, talent and depth won't secure the Mavs their first NBA title without progress from core their top players. Coach Avery Johnson would like for the best of them, Nowitzki, to improve on defense, provide more offensive rebounds and increase his scoring totals. There are all areas in which the 7-foot jump shooter has made strides the last few years.

Nelson has good reason to rate the depth of the Western Conference. Significant improvement is expected from Houston, Golden State and Utah, all of which missed the playoffs last season.

The Suns, if they ever become healthy, are a puble of forthcoming Dallas in the West. Last season the Suns rendered the conference finals where they bested six games against the Mavs. Phoenix won 54-28 during the regular season.

AVI Home Service

PAINT Safin is slowly getting his old form back.

Safin marches on in Paris Masters

PARIS—THREE-TIME CHAMPION Marat Safin improved his impressive record at the Paris Masters to 22-2 with a 6-1, 7-6 (3) first-round win over Nicolas Mahut of France on Monday.

Safin, the winner in 2000, 2002 and 2004, has failed to make the final only once in five previous visits.

He fired 17 aces past solid card Mahut, and completed the victory on a backhand pass which left the Frenchman grounded after he dived to reach the ball in the tiebreaker.

The tournament marks Safin's last chance to win a title this year. Struggling after knee surgery, the Russian fell out of the top 100 before the US Open but was back in the top 50 after reaching this month's final in Moscow—his first in almost 10 months. He hasn't won a title since the 2005 Australian Open.

Next up will be Robin Soderling of Sweden.

Top-ranked Roger Federer withdrew on Monday complaining of fatigue a day after winning his 11th title of the year in Basel.

He was the biggest name on a list of absentees including Rafael Nadal, Andy Roddick and David Nalbandian.

Nicolas Almagro of Spain needed three tiebreakers and three hours to beat Jonas Bjorkman, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1). AP

Working-class heroes inducted into the Hall

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA—Lanny Nelson was either in the jungle or a river paddy during his two years in the Vietnam War, enough time to learn the difference between a land leech and a water leech. Vijay Singh rolled in the rain forest of Borneo, giving golf lessons for $US and spending every free minute working on his game.

Both took unimaginable routes to one of golf's greatest honors on Monday when they were inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame, a celebration of blue-collar success.

"This is one of the biggest achievements in my life," Singh said.

Nelson, a tenacious leader for the 1980s industry server touched a golf club ahead of his enlistment from Vietnam. He went on to win three major championships, including the 1983 US Open at Oakmont, and remains the only American to go 4-0 in a Ryder Cup.

Singh rolled on a circuitous route as he worked his way out of Borneo, won the European Tour and eventually to the United States where the 19-time rose to No. 1 in the world ranking by winning nine times in 2004, the highlight of successful career that brought him three majors and 10 victories on the US PGA Tour.

SINGH

They were inducted along with former Masters and US PGA champion Henry Picard, Marilynn Smith, one of the 13 founders of the LPGA tour who won 21 times and was majors, and Mark McCormack, who founded IMG and reshaped sports management with clients ranging from Arnold Palmer to Tiger Woods.

Their induction brings membership in the Hall of Fame to 114.

Nelson and Singh were elected on the US PGA Veit ballot. Nelson received 83 percent of the vote, the minimum required.

Singh was elected last year with 96 percent of the vote, but deferred his induction because of a tournament to play overseas last year. AP

IN THIS ISSUE
Skype's limit /B2
Metrobank, BPI post strong gains /B8

BUSINESS
Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

MWSS wants water supply cutback deferred

Typhoon's rains raise water level in Angat Dam

By Christine A. Gaylican

THERE WILL BE NO WATER-SUPPLY REDUCTION in Metro Manila residents this month, thanks to the rains brought by Typhoon "Paeng."

With the higher water level in Angat Dam, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) is pushing for the postponement of a scheduled two-day supply cutback in January.

MWSS deputy administrator Moses Cruz said the rains brought by Typhoon Paeng raised Angat Dam's water elevation to 190 meters from 180.9 meters.

Cruz said the MWSS has requested the National Water Resources Board to defer the water supply reductions. The agency is holding a special meeting on Friday to decide on the matter.

Water supply deliveries to Metro Manila, Luzon, Pampanga, Rizal and parts of Cavite would have been reduced starting this month because of the dwindling water level in Angat Dam, the national capital region's main source of water.

Cruz said a critical water level for Angat Dam was 160 meters, which would leave the government with no choice but to ration water supply.

At the same time, the MWSS has urged consumers to implement water conservation measures this month in anticipation of the impending El Niño phenomenon, which is expected until the first quarter of 2007.

Exposed to be spared from a water supply cutback are 50,000 households served by east concessionaire Manila Water Co. Inc. and 160,000 households served by Maynilad Water Services Inc.

(See water level rises again on Page B2)

Teves defends tax amnesty program

By Michelle V. Barro

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO Teves has defended the Bureau of Internal Revenue's abolished program, under which delinquent taxpayers may have their civil cases dropped and penalties waived in exchange for paying the principal amount of their tax liabilities.

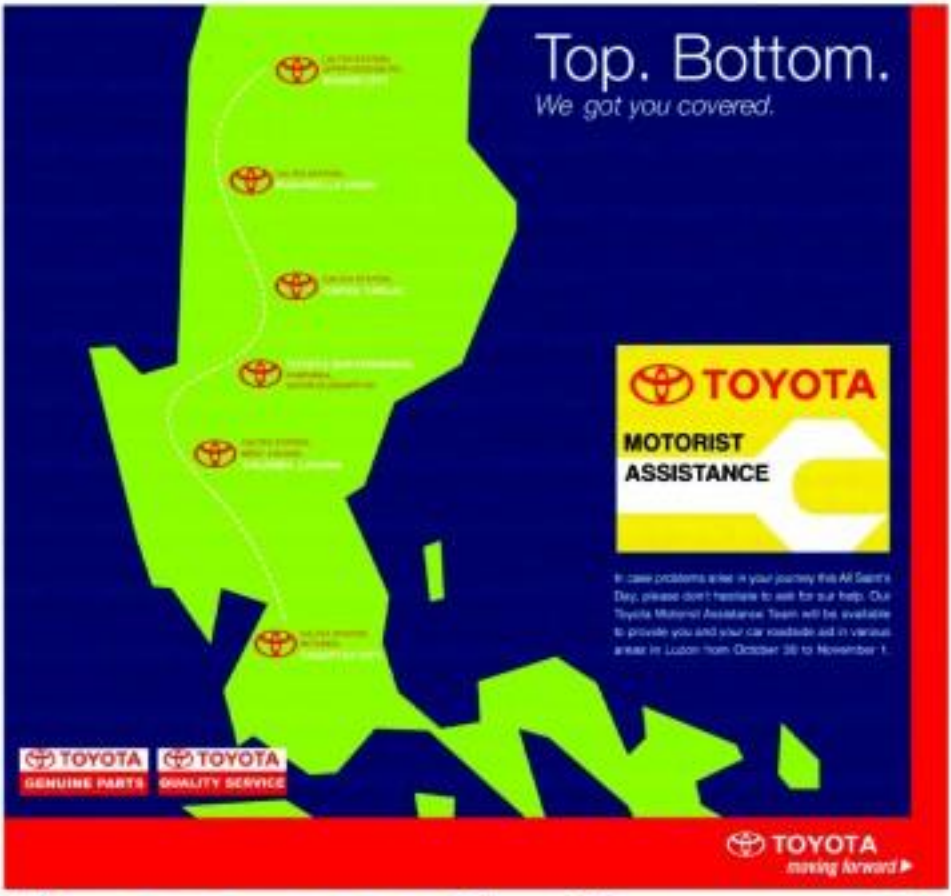
"This BIR is just like a bank, which sometimes has to make a move to dispose of its non-performing loans. The (abolished) program will allow back the BIR and the taxpayer to move on," Teves told reporters.

About 40 tax delinquents—including those with pending civil cases with the Department of Justice, the Court of Appeals, the Court of Tax Appeals and the Supreme Court—may be pardoned under the abolished program if they agree on the compromise offer, Deputy Bureau with pending cases with the Presidential Commission on Good Government are not entitled to apply for the program.

The abolished program requires applicants to pay only the basic tax liability, thus waiving penalties, including interests and surcharges.

Teves said the abolished program, implemented under Revenue Regulation No. 15-2005,

TEVES B2



Skype's limit

THE LOCAL DISTRIBUTOR OF SKYPE PHONE was exhibited this weekend after the model units it was showing in trade buyers of the COMDEX expo in The Fort relatively zoomed to sold-offers.

The SMOWIE P100 phone is supposed to make Internet telephony much easier than what Skype now provides through the personal computer, but somehow the COMDEX organizers failed to install wifi connection on the booth of Skype distributor MEMECS, to make the wifi phones work.

Despite the technical glitch, MEMECS has already announced the Georgian computer-maker to carry the SMOWIE P100, at a suggested retail price of P14,900 heavy-duty.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Aganito

NOT can get the same unit for as low as $350 equivalent.

The advantage of the Skype wifi phone is that it not only functions once home being telli-vered to the computers or laptop, it can also be podcasted and brought overseas as a cost-saving phone.

The unit is designed to instantly detect and connect to unsecured wifi hotspots just like a laptop, but without being weighed down by the laptop.

While it does provide free overseas phone calls to fellow Skype users, the unit phone, just like a PC-originated overseas phone call, will still cost the Philippine caller a non-Skype phone a hefty rate: 9.21 (VAT inclusive) a minute.

That rate compares with what Sky Cellular now charges, 20 US cents to dials (plus VAT), but will about half what Globe and Smart both billed, a painful 40 US cents/minute.

Still, the Skype wifi phones will surely pay for itself for frequent travelers and business callers.

According to the Skype unit card, calls originating in Hong Kong, Singapore, the United States, or even in Skype and all connecting to the Philippines should cost as little as 2.15 cents.

If you think it is a residential, toast sized you get your hands on a multifunction unit cellphone/dishes and featuring have al-ready gone out stock with their limited stock etc., now being re-called by 7Mobile as Scotty.

Aside from making cheap VoIP calls, the wifi cellphone unit also monitored and relayed e-mail to multiple e-mail addresses.

It can also be used as a walkie-talkie to simultaneously call up to eight other wifi calls to seamlessly switch to cellphone calls using the same mobile phone.

Pan upgrades fleet

THE PENINSULA MANILA has acquired eight Mercedes-Benz S350 to replace its aging 600-Class fleet.

According to the grapevine, the eight long-wheel base Benzes will be delivered by mid-December, after having been specially painted to regulatory Peninsula green (technically, the color is known as brewster green) in the Mercedes factory in Germany.

The new Pen fleet is actually part of the 32 S350s acquired by the now-misbehaviorally named Pilotas Car Leasing, which in turn will lease out numerous the Benzes for the luxury hotel.

With the retirement of its 16-year-old S320s, the Pen has decided to simply outsource the limo service to a third-party provider just like what Manchesta and Shangri-La have already done.

According to the grapevine, the Pen had considered acquiring a number of BMW 7s as well, but was told by ex-Hong Kong headquarters to stick to Mercs, the three pointed stars being the standard limo of choice of Peninsula hotels worldwide.

The S350 has a list price of slightly more than P6 million, but the Pen's purchase has already given the local Benz dealer, Cathay Motors, an P80 million windfall.

To underscore the importance of the Peninsula purchase, the Mercedes-Benz regional honcho in Singapore are even flying in for the delivery and ribbon cutting.

Money-go-round

• THE SINGAPORE-BASED Philippine distributor of Subaru's, the 26-year-old Glenn Tan of Tan Cheng International Ltd. fortune, made an overnight visit to Honda Manila's just-re-opened the 2007 model launch in Tan Yan.

• THE QUIMBO-JIMÉNEZ monitored Universe of the Galaxies' reality has been quietly accumulating Meralco shares in the last two months, with the steady hoarding already having amounted more than P100 million, according to one estimate.

Heard through the grapevine

GMA lawyer E Arthur Villanueva has advised friends and business associates that he is changing the two cellphone numbers he had been using, meaning even those who text him that both his post-paid and pre-paid mobile phones "have been zapped." Email: arthur@cocktales.ph

Teves defends tax amnesty...

From page B1

sion a reasonable way to shore up revenue collection.

He noted that the abatement program is not like the BIR's past tax amnesty programs wherein delinquent taxpayers will have their cases dropped if they pay even a small percentage of their basic tax liabilities. The abatement program only waives interest charges and penalties and thus requires full payment of the principal tax obligation, Teves stressed.

The strategy of entering into compromise settlements with tax delinquents was a shift from the previous policy of strictly pursuing every tax evaders and charging them before the courts with the aim of discouraging the public from doing the same.

The BIR's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program, infused in the revenue agency this year, has charged dozens against delinquents and summoned the filing to the media to gather public attention, is still officially ongoing. The filing of cases, however, which used to be on a weekly basis, has become irregular.

Filing of applications for the "One-time Administrative Abatement Program" was supposed to start only for the month of October, but was recently extended until Dec. 22 to accommodate the huge number of taxpayers interested to apply.

"[The regulations] is another step toward reducing the bureau's accounts receivables and patching investments," the BIR said in 8.8 (E-2006).

The abatement program is one of the measures intended to help the BIR plug the P2.5-billion tax collection shortfall it recorded in the first nine months of the year.

Shares extend winning streak to 9 sessions

From page B1

Brisk foreign investment inflows have supported the gains, he said.

Leading advancers were blue chips Metrobank, up 3.5 percent at P47, Ayala Land Inc., which advanced 1.07 percent to P15.25, and Globe Telecom, higher by 0.9 percent at P1,120.

Profit-taking in other issues capped the rise, traders said.

Decliners led advancers 72 to 23, while 36 issues were unchanged.

The market will be closed Wednesday for All Saints' Day. AP

PRINT FOR PROFIT
PRINT HIGH RESOLUTION BANNERS, STREAMERS AND BILLBOARDS AT LOW PRODUCTION COST!
Gilmutek
Tel: 534.7975 • 534.8388 • 941.8716
Look for: Nanie Julia

Sumptous Vegetarian Cooking Class
Did you ever wanted to learn vegetarian cooking to restore health, maintain fitness or begin your compassionate lifestyle? Then this ONE DAY COURSE is for you.
Seminar Dates: Nov 10, 19, 25, 26, 2006 (Fee: P3,000)
Other Courses: Astrology, Numerology, Tarot Card Reading, Ageless Wisdom, Winged Unicorn Clairvoyance
Call 525-1515 / 0922.888.1 / 0920.515.48 / 09186433758
Venue: 7C OLC Bldg Annapolis Ave, Quezon City

THE MOST IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF PRODUCTS, TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES FOR YOUR CONSTRUCTION & BUILDING MATERIALS NEEDS
PHILCONSTRUCT 2006
November 8 -11, 2006 • World Trade Center Metro manila
Event Highlights
CONFIRMED EXHIBITORS

MOTORING
Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

New Porsches, Bimmers, Benzes to splurge your first ₱100M on

By Tessa R. Salazar

THINK OUT-OF-THIS-world riches. Think richer than Richie Rich. Think like you owned YouTube and you just sold it to Google for $1.6 billion. Think like history cars were nothing to you but diecast toys ripe for collecting, and your subterranean shelf is a hectare-wide garage in the middle of a ranch.

You know that ranch, and then you own all of the nearest cars in the world. At least you thought you do—beyond the Porsche 911 Turbo.

That is, until—when another one called at the ranch to taunt her window tools priced out—and with all her might to keep the filthy rich character in mind as she drove the Porsche Cayenne, a Cayenne and a Porsche Carrera 997, their monstrous horns made other vehicles scatter to the sides.

There were 19 brand-new Porsche vehicles brought in by Porsche World Roadshow and PSA Corp., plus a preferential lineup of German sedans from the Porsche Sports Mitsubishi and Filipino driving interactive hot seats.

Giving the Porches a spin

They didn't bring all that fast, though. Invited motoring journalists (and Porsche owners) were given the opportunity to give the Porsches a spin. And what a spin we got then. We drove each Porsche variant in the sun—sweltering heat, cramming tightly and burning rubber in long skids (the sudden management-a-valley feature, sou-tested or not-so).

Now you a randomly picked product—let's say a posh condominium—in a handbrake turn or rear-up from five 100-to 4-second?

Our Pinoy Richie Riches can now splurge on a truly "bulled athlete" it-to-ok-sensation and to personally like design of the team BMW 3-Liter Coupe. The coupe had its debut here last month. BMW Philippines boasts that this "high-performance sports car offers distinctive qualities from the very first mile—a weight-optimized body, efficient multi-valve drivetrain and suspension and a 265-hp 3-liter straight six power unit—nothing the standard worldwide in its class.

The aggressive design of the new coupe appears to like silky large shoal.

According to BMW, the entire front section of this coupe—like that of the Z4 Roadster—announce a thrilling sense of power and forward-urging dynamism. Powerful lines on the engine compartment lid flow toward the kidney grille, while the contours of the air intakes moving up to the kidney grille from beneath guide the eyes more toward the wide track of the car.

Sheer driving pleasure

Owners and inspectors of this new coupe guarantees the driver sheer driving pleasure to the hilt.

The new BMW 3 Series Coupé offers a brand new look. The long wheel base, the passenger cell moved far to the rear, as well as the low and sleek roadline supporting set quality to the rear-end all characterize the sheer driving pleasure of this new coupe. The voluminous, rear-legs relaxed inline measures a feeling of power and visibility.

The powerdrome bulging above the engine hood underneath the power-

ful 2.5-liter straight six engine contrast with the Porsche Boxster's side marker with manufacturer's story showing a new output of 218 hp and peak torque of 200 Nm or coupe at 3,500 rpm. The coupe can reach 100 kph and performance much more sporty, usually than a conventional turbo-charged engine).

Diesel marathon

Mercedes-Benz started last week its diesel marathon from Europe to Asia. From this French capital, 39 MB E-Class vehicles powered by clean diesel started on their journey of over 13,000 km to Beijing, where the fleet is expected to arrive on Nov. 17.

A total of 160 drivers from 21 countries will be seated behind the wheels of the E-Class models, which will cover a combined distance of more than 490,000 km before arriving in the Chinese capital.

The route from Paris to Beijing is not about speed but about achieving the lowest possible fuel consumption on the individual stages and across the overall distance.

Aside from the 218 CDIs, included are six three E-Class vehicles with BlueTec which MB engineer Jurgen Sunkes cited a low sulfur up-during to cut in the Philippines as the cleanest diesel engine in the world. The E 320 BlueTec is the first and only diesel engine that generates figures below the extremely low US limits without exhaust gas treatment, particularly in respect to nitrogen oxide emissions.

The route of the E-Class covers France, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Kazakhstan and China. It would follow that of the first transcontinental car race in history that ran between Beijing and Paris 99 years ago.

MB CUTTEL: Inside their Benz Fleet on Beijing

Z4 COUPE'S image of speed and power

Chicken or egg question

ON THE ROAD
Mike Sarrillo Mendoza

WHICH COMES FIRST—ALTERnative fuels supply or alternative fuel vehicles production? The chicken-or-egg question came up during (headline forum on alternative fuels) the Philippine Motor Trade Week. The forum may or may not have been prompted by the recent approval of Senate Bill 2228, "An Act that Would Allow the Use of Biofuels in all Motor Vehicles Sold or Used in the Transport Sector."

The biofuel act's approval on second and third reading does not mean that it will take effect immediately. It will still have to be reconciled with the House of Representatives' own version authored by Rep. Aniz Miguel Tobias. And Senator Juan Flavier, the author, has expressed confidence that the two bills would be reconciled during the bicameral conference next month, the time needed for it to make success.

Fly

It was reasoning that the car builders can't be motivated and the consumers can't be encouraged to buy cars by the President before the year ends, the Department of Energy's goal to achieve 5 percent bioethanol blend in gasoline by 2007 and 10 percent by 2010 (the 10 percent blend is the country is expected to open in 2009 on), and producing only 100,000 liters a day at that. Until then, ethanol will be blended (by the oil companies, Mendez) gasoline will cost more than conventional gasoline.

At the Manila Forum, Toll Director Ilee to Mamaspac revealed that the Department of Energy's target of biofuels fuels program that the objective is to reach 50 percent self-sufficiency level by 2010. This will be made possible by among other things, giving government a 10 percent ethanol and diesel fuel containing at least 2 percent coco-biodiesel by least volume by the year 2010.

Supply

But Petron President Khalid Al Dabbagh, who represented the oil industry in the forum's panel discussion on the issue, insisted on the issue ability of the 10 percent blend if the ethanol supply is only 100,000 liters a day for big fuel Petron alone would need as least five or 10 times that quantity, he cautioned.

Honda believes that hybrid is the best system for fuel economy and the environment while looking at the FCX, its fuel cell vehicle, as the ultimate goal of the future. In the technical roundtable, HCFI president general manager Takashi Sekiguchi said that Honda supports the government's energy independence program, and that Honda is working with the DOE for an information campaign about alternative fuel vehicles, primarily hybrid cars.

Flex-fuel

Considering the unpredictability of Southeast Asia's, a suggestion was made in one point during the forum that the automobile industry should produce flex-fuel vehicles, of engines that can use gasoline containing zero or up to 85 percent ethanol. Mitch brings to back to the question of which comes first, of—the fuel supply or the vehicles that fuel cars production?

It took Brazil 30 years to start the equivalent of more than one billion barrels of oil through the substitution of gasoline with ethanol, according to Mariano Paulo Rousseau of the Brazilian Embassy, he says achieve Brazil's level of energy independence. "If I proved of the energy (and it four ballgames, renewable sources), if the producers of biofuels as well as the manufacturers and buyers of vehicles that use them, the government generous tax incentives. In other words, simultaneously ensure the supply of both alternative fuels and alternative fuel cars at reasonable prices.

• • •

TERRY'S RUBBER STICKER
Don't worry about hospitalization—as you grow older, a stain scrubbing you.

• • •

E-mail comments to auto_mail@yahoo.com.

THE 2006 HYBRID Civic

The dearly departed

MY DRIFT
Andre Palma

"RIGHT IS ACTUALLY A WAY for remembering. The rituals and procedures of a nation so deeply Catholic and pagan at the same time might point others to the right way to deal with the real spirit of this beloved day, but are selfless. Exactly. Is about what, and not only? Of memorabilia, and creative more than I guess say with that I mean dearly.

My old Civic Hatchback 1997 Sedan Like that type in fact. The first car I regularly drove—as and from school—came pretty early, many of a car to get excited about. There are no power to speak of. It always ran into mechanical problems. Rust was commonplace. It was faulty in many discrepancies of sorts, for it was that car that had a lot of memories attached to it. I grew to that quirky mini car that symbolized that independence and responsibility.

Honda believes that hybrid is the best system for fuel economy and the environment while looking at the FCX, its fuel cell vehicle, as the ultimate goal of the future. In the technical roundtable, HCFI president general manager Takashi Sekiguchi said that Honda supports the government's energy independence program, and that Honda is working with the DOE for an information campaign about alternative fuel vehicles, primarily hybrid cars.

More about the memories

Looking are sort of autonomy. My perhaps more than the gasoline, my sibling significance is more about the memories rather than the actual driving that I had to endure in that underpressured Manila traffic. Memories, especially for the out of places newly surrounded by loneliness that I was. It driving the streets of the university football team, and to launch in the first week of subordination not enjoyable. A memorable experience in any car, then I shall know value does.

Then there was the Subaru Forester that replaced the rust-after the cylinder head warped during a really bad overheating spell. Imagine the shock I had, upon seeing it on a dull and boring daily drive to the cars, spunky and subtle, really sense this. Say, only driving sentiment would bother me you to see that car go.

Again, I had a relative that are or really drove well. It smelt classic and each somewhere a new set related. I took it as a sign that the four-door sedan was tired and somewhere.

I jumped some from car to car after that, going relatives was my responsibility. I was all individually spotted for choice at the time, driving anything from a Subaru Hi-Jet, a small delivery van, that looked like a load of fruit, to a decently old or the late 'bul reliable WLTI 2306 Mini. There was also a WL124 2306 in the garage at the time, but that was completely off-limits to me, not that my father would let me any car I but just that I was terrified of ever having to end of the driveway. One second I was totaled rather sad.

Nameless, faceless rivals

Cars became nameless, faceless cards at this point with nothing really grabbing my attention physically or mechanically. All This ended, of course, when the first Honda made its appearance in the garage. The Mark 1.6-liter SE sedan, in for very tiny not on to the car in a way that it was very much reliant to that day. It was quiet, admittedly better than anything I'd driven before.

The speed was something I really was not to think back to the revolution—into cars and the brakes allowed me to once actually several times during the duration. This is the car that I was successful in phase six and the serious car of driving I say is now. After only two weeks of bliss, my first theft. The fit ended when my father took it on his daily drive.

At one encounters the car that my son has shared their time with, it's be easy to see that they've left some part of themselves under us. Whether it is memories of growing up or the drives they allowed us to enjoy, we must admit that we owe something to these automobiles. We owe them who are not around for them. That is why we should never forget.

BUSINESS

Metrobank, BPI post strong gains

Banking giants report 2-digit growth in Q3

By Doris C. Dantico

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST banks, Metrobank Bank and Trust Co. and Bank of the Philippine Islands, posted double-digit growth in third quarter net profits from the same period last year.

Metrobank reported P1.3 billion in third quarter net profit for the parent bank, up by about 27 percent from last year's P950 million.

This figure, however, was not consolidated with the net profits of subsidiaries like Philcom Savings Bank and First Metro Investment Corp.

BPI, on the other hand, said in a press statement that its consolidated net income amounted to P2.3 billion for the same period—11 percent up from the year-ago level.

The bank's revenues went up by 9 percent, outpaced by the 20-percent rise in operating expenses. However, the rise in expenditures was partly accounted by a P900-million decline in other loss impairment losses.

BPI's income last year went up after the new Philippine Financial Reporting Standards was implemented.

For the first nine months of the year, BPI said its consolidated net income rose to P6.9 billion, 8 percent higher than last year. The improvement in income was supported by the 7 percent increase in loan revenues.

BPI's net interest income posted a moderate 4 percent expansion mainly on account of an 11-percent growth in revenue-generating base.

"The impact of the higher volumes was softened by a 28 basis points drop in spreads as interest rates fell due to excess liquidity, improved government finances and contained inflation," BPI said.

Non-interest income also recorded a stronger increase of 16 percent in trading gains from securities and foreign exchange trading, property rentals, investment management and trust fees, and service charges and commissions.

BPI's total assets were recorded at P920 billion. Metrobank's consolidated assets fetched P620.6 billion.

Meanwhile, stability-object Asian Alcohol Corp. reported a net profit of P1.25 billion for the first nine months, 31 percent higher than the 2005 million earnings for the same period last year. It has also retained the P1.26 billion left-year net profit it registered in 2005.

The healthy earnings were driven by solid growth in revenues, which registered to P62 billion for the January-September period from P4.1 billion in the comparable period last year.

GIVING HOPE
The wife of a former succession rebel (left) receives financial aid from Social Welfare Secretary Jesus Dureza (2nd from left) and Assistant Secretary Jose Lorenzo (2nd from right). The government is stepping up efforts to help communities grossly affected by conflict.

Stradcom to raise ₱1.6B in bond offer

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

STRADCOM CORP. PEL RAISE P1.6 billion through a special purpose trust company that will issue asset-backed bonds sometime this November.

Stradcom, is a private company that develops and operates an information technology facilities for clients leveraging multi-service to fields, registration transactions of motor vehicles and its financing Commission.

The bond transaction is the first to be done under the Securitization Act of 2004, which allows companies to generate funds by securitizing their assets.

Stradcom is a private company that develops and operates an information technology facilities for clients leveraging multi-service to fields, registration transactions of motor vehicles and its financing Commission.

The bond transaction is the first to be done under the Securitization Act of 2004, which allows companies to generate funds by securitizing their assets.

Stradcom is a private company that develops and operates an information technology facilities for clients leveraging multi-service to fields, registration transactions of motor vehicles and its financing Commission.

The bond transaction is the first to be done under the Securitization Act of 2004, which allows companies to generate funds by securitizing their assets.

7-yr T-bond rate drops to 7.125%

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE RATE FOR THE SEVEN-YEAR TREASURY bond yesterday dropped by 1.94.8 basis points to 7.125 percent, with fiscal authorities attributing the decline to the high level of market liquidity and optimism on the government's fiscal condition and economic environment.

The seven-year bonds last fetched 7.071 percent in the day, 24 earlier.

Appetite for the long-term bonds was strong, as tenders reached P22.85 billion compared with the government's debt offering of only P4 billion.

The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted P6 billion worth of bids that came up in all the four tenor bonds.

Bankard Treasurer Omar Cruz said the outlook of a decelerating inflation helped perk up market sentiment. A slowdown in inflation encouraged investors to seek for lower-return market investments.

Inflation, which measures the increase in consumer prices, further slowed down to an annual rate of only 3.7 percent in September from 4.1 percent the previous month, partly due to the strong footing of the peso. The appreciation of the local currency makes imported goods cheaper in peso terms.

Cruz added that the general outlook for a lower-than-programmed deficit this year improves the government's credit rating, thereby encouraging the market to seek for lower yield investments.

The government's budget deficit for the first nine months of the year stood at only P88.409 billion, compared with the ceiling of P111.99 billion, on account of lower-than-programmed spending and overperformance in the collection of duty-tax revenues.

A lower deficit also means lower borrowing requirements for the government, making demands for government securities higher than the supply.

"The biggest borrower in town (the government) is borrowing less," Cruz told reporters after the Bankard investors meeting. "What is happening is the reverse of the crowding out effect because of market local conditions."

Government bonds have been tightening by a range of 10 to 20 basis points in the secondary market, Cruz noted.

In thrift bank sector's total portfolio, 8.68% are bad loans

THE THRIFT BANKING SECTOR's bad loans accounted for 8.68 percent of its total loan portfolio as of end-August this year, up from 8.28 percent of the previous month, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

The 8.2 percent growth in nonperforming loans from July to August compared the 2.3 percent loan expansion during the period. In August last year, the NPL ratio was 8.66percent.

In a report, the BSP said the thrift banking sector's NPL reached loans at a single-digit level for 27 consecutive months.

The BSP noted that the sector had banks used the restructuring option when dealing with delinquent borrowers. A debt restructuring involves the stretching of maturity and the lowering of interest rates to give the borrower the chance to retire the balance.

Also, the ratio of real and other properties owned and acquired (Ropoa) to gross assets eased to 0.51 percent from 0.53 percent a month ago as stock of foreclosed assets shrank by 1.6 percent. The Ropoa ratio in August was set at improvement from last year's 10.26 percentage.

The compartmenting to arm—bad loans and Ropoa combined—inched up to 12.40 percent from 12.61 percent a month ago. (Jerry C. Bumlao

Expanding the choices one makes for the dear departed

By Daniel G. Lucas

GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN cremation was taboo for many in the predominantly Roman Catholic country.

While an overwhelming majority of the deceased in the Philippines is still buried "six feet under," more and more people—or their surviving relatives—are finding out for cremation as a means of "memorializing" human remains.

This trend is gaining even more traction as rising real estate prices combine with the growing need for cemetery—first class, but equally, erodes the cadre held by traditional funeral procedures.

One towering testament to the growing popularity of cremation is a 12-story structure currently being constructed in Manila's Chinatown district. The building will house funeral parlor, called Arbor, Escamilla Bel and Diamond.

One-stop memorial shop

Middle from several bereavement service providers who thought the channel to cremation was a new hotel building during the initial stages of its construction.

Only recently did the public realize that it is actually an all-in-one memorial center that the funeral parlor called one-stop, dubbed "The Interbuilding."

"What we have here is a one-stop shop for cremation," Interbuilding vice president for sales and marketing Samuel Dy said in an interview. "We facilities necessary are available in one complex."

The building's main facility is a columbarium, which is basically a complex of small vaults where cremated remains—or "urnlets" as they are known in the industry—are kept.

According to Dy, the facility's developer, The Interbuilding Co., Inc., has initially begun pre-selling the first two levels of the building as part of the project's first phase.

100,800 vaults

At 30 sqft, Interbuilding's accommodates "over 100,000 vaults," he said, although the exact number will depend on the physical layout of the columbarium vaults, in turn, will depend on the market's response to the product.

Dy attributes the growing popularity of cremation and columbarium services to two main factors.

"One is for practical considerations, and the other is financial," he said.

Because of Filipinos' changing lifestyles, Dy said it is becoming increasingly difficult to get together entire families together for a visit to the graves of their deceased relatives.

He explained that columbarium, most of which are located in urban areas, thus relieves the flexibility of visiting their deceased loved ones at their convenience.

"You can visit the remains of your loved ones 365 days a year, and it's never enough to crowd out your social gathering facilities for your usual gatherings after," Dy added.

Cremains

On the financial side, the Interbuilding project's columbarium vaults can cost as low as P30,000, while its crematorium package is P130,000, which includes the use of a ceremonial chapel for the rites, cubicles for and cremation facilities, and a vault for the "cremains."

"Compare this with traditional, middle-class realtors where you can spend anywhere from P50,000 to P300,000 just for the realtor," he said. "Here, you'll have to buy a plot of land in a memorial parks, for anywhere from P300,000 to P500,000."

When faced with these options, the bereaved's survivors become very sensitive especially to surviving relatives of the deceased.

Most importantly, surviving relatives will not have to worry about paying periodic maintenance dues to the cemetery. The firm gets a portion of the payment and sets it up as part of trust fund, where proceeds will be used for the maintenance of the columbarium.

Overwhelming response

And how are Filipinos reacting up to the idea of being cremated? Dy said it's overwhelming.

"So far, the response has been overwhelming," he said. "We weren't marketing this even a year ago, and the response has been great."

Dy boasts that buyers have been interested in the facility since it is actually better than what is being presented in sales brochures—in contrast to sales lots for condominium units, which often over-hype the actual physical attributes of the product.

He admits, however, selling columbarium spaces to social services is not the easiest of jobs, considering people's attention to discussing death matters.

The key, however, is to impress upon the buyer the idea that such a service is meant for the surviving relatives than the departed.

"They still have an exercise because we take care of everything," Dy said. "What we offer inside is relief for those left behind. It's almost like an insurance policy."

LIFESTYLE 2BU
Editor Chole Bansil-Perueso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

The Death Chronicles
(A What It's Like Special)

2bU! 's Nov. 1 issue takes a look at the different facets of death—through books, songs and poignant personal essays. What it's like to lose a dad, a grandfather, a lover, a best friend, even a beloved pet, what it's like to grow up surrounded by death and to grow up deathly afraid of it.

This snapshot of death is not morbid. It explores how fragile humans can be and how hope always emerges after loss.

This issue, in many ways, is a celebration of life

2BU! CELEB SURVEY

How do you want to be remembered?

I want to be remembered as a person who believed in his dreams and never gave up, that for one moment I never believed in dreaming as people or being a fake to get where I wanted to be, and that I stood and hard work was what got me somewhere. For, most important, that I was a person who never regretted the past and never feared the future. Living for the moment and embracing life the way it came to me. And for tough that, I inspired people to do the same. To live life and enjoy it, and always believe that anything is possible if you put your mind into it. —**Sunar Dowd**

By Nino Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

I would like to be remembered as the Philippines' Lance Armstrong minus the testicular cancer. But first I have to buy a bike because I don't have one.—**Luke Ackuia**

I want to be remembered as a person who was friends with everybody and was a friend to everyone.—Prod of "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition"

I want to be remembered as a wonderful mother, a friend like no other, a woman who always persevered. I want to be remembered as one who was always willing to help others, especially with regard to breast cancer. I want to be remembered as a model survivor, a fighter. I want to be fondly missed for my curvaceous color, to which I give as much passion as I do to anything else in my life. Above all, I want to be remembered as a beloved daughter of God. I owe everything I am and ever could be to Him.—**Marivani Fernandez**

As someone who kept dreaming not just for himself but for the people he loved, someone who kept dreaming not because he never succeeded at anything, but because he had new, bigger missions to fulfill each time he retained success.—**Mikee Lee** of "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition"

Someone who made other people laugh. A true survivor. I also want to be able to have a certain look, like when you say, the Audrey Hepburn look, it's the classic little black dress. I want to be able to have something like that.—**Maricel Rodriguez**

As a person who lived and loved his life to the fullest, looked where he could and tried to put a smile on as many faces as possible.—**Mare Herbon**

I would want to be remembered as a musician who made music that people of any generation would love.— **Mici Arboy**

My father's legacy

THE AUTHOR with his sister Rachael, mum Hermenia and dad Rufaro

By Robin Ryan Ely
Child Contributor

He was a serious, hardworking and selfless man and he taught me many things. The last one was his death. It turned me into a man

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN just a normal night. We had pizza delivered to our house. My sister, who just got her call center job, requested it.

I was already sleeping in my room when the commotion started. I woke up to the sound of my mum on the intercom. I ran to my parents' room. We rushed my father to the hospital—we were in such a hurry I didn't even get the chance to grab a shirt.

At the hospital, I thought things were going to be okay because I thought I saw my dad breathing. But I was wrong. So was mine. The doctor said he passed away from heart complications.

My father was a good man, a family man. He was smart and at times even overprotective, both to me and my sister. He worked really hard, even at home. In silence just on first. He was selfless. When we shopped, he'd spend as much on my needs, my sister and me but hardly for himself.

When we'd ask him why, he'd say, "Ayaw ko nang isipin kung ano ang para sa akin." Dr. "Gusto ko magkaroon kayo ng mabuhay." As economists, he'd order the steak, sprinkle, "Mas magandang ng ang mga bata."

My dad was a serious man and as I grew up, I realised how much he sacrificed for me and my sister. I'm not going to lie, I was

Losing a cat

It was not just any cat. Enrico was my beloved androgynous furball

ENRICO and her foster mother

By Irene C. Perez

VET VISITS FOR CATS are probably as scary as dental checkups for humans.

Enrico, my year-old cat, had diarrhea for a week, so my mom and I took him to the vet for the first time. If a human being suffers from colitis (medical term for anal itch), I swear my cat had white paws on that vet table.

He was acting weird at first. My mamon nerosos ko saw Enrico digging stuff from the trash, which was very unlikely of him because he's pretty neurotic. He doesn't eat the same kind of cat food on consecutive meals. He doesn't vet pads, drinks only powder milk (no powdered coco, please) and eats very little turbo. I suspected he was on South Beach.

He loved clean and shows and frequently lathed up on the couch or on top of my TV. He snuggled up on my back when I study but boy is the cat in bed. He hated mice and roaches and commented them before killing 'em.

What I found weird was he allowed Emily, my kitten, to suck imaginable milk from him. Emily formed two little fat pades on his tummy and washed on them. I suspected Enrico was gay.

He was such a fussy fellow, that's why I somehow panicked when he started eating his fur-balls himself. From a purring, non-moving machine, my playful Enrico became a gloomy furball. And as I took him to the vet, which turned out to be reasonable for him.

The doctor had to thrust a thermometer in his butt, and cream salved me to handle him because there's no good with icky stuff. You don't couldn't handle the cat, either. I'm neutered and caressed like mad. I clutched him to the nape, but the terrified poor thing kept fighting me off. I was almost to tears seeing him so scared, and I couldn't bear being in the same room with him.

Man, I was a tachikomatic mega mother-in-Einstein kondoms.

He was diagnosed with serous colitis, the vet said, he got from playing with other cats. I force-fed him medicines and vitamin drops. It was as tough as administering meds to a screaming baby. He got well a few weeks after—so well that he quickly doubled in size.

My mom and I nursed the cat was getting too big and eating too much. We hate my bad tummy sparks and I thought they were big times! Hihi. So I asked mom about it just in case he needed to be checked by the vet again.

"Mukaplan your ah," my mom said. "Enrico, hamba ka?" she asked the cat.

He winced. It turned out Enrico was female.

Tragedy

We had taken him from the streets into our home because my thought he was male. We didn't want female cats because they're always pregnant and we had no more room for kittens. We were very sure Enrico had balls.

It turned out he wasn't sick. He, I mean she, was to be a mother of four.

A few months later, Enrico gave birth to four lovely striped kittens. I received a text message from my mother while I was at the office. She said: "I just hung your towels to the backyard and I found Enrico lying there dead. I don't know what happened. So sorry. I feel really bad."

I didn't care if anybody saw me break down as I rushed to the washroom. My chest tightened, my hands became clammy, blood rushed to my face and fat, but tears still as I read my mom's message over and over. I wept loud and hard inside the cubicle, trying to purge what I had happened.

I called my mom's cell and my sister both crying over the phone. She said the cat might have been poisoned because there was no wound in her body nor a smudge of blood.

She wasn't sick anymore. She was a victim. She was my friend. She shouldn't have died just like that.

I came back to my office near glassy-eyed and red-faced. My friends asked what had happened, and I told them my cat had died. For a while, they were confused as to whether they'd say condolences or not, but they did anyway. That night I ended up drunk with a friend, mourning for my no-longer-mom cat.

My mom and I kept one of Enrico's kittens, but I wanted as close to her as I was with her mother. Since I lost my beloved furball, I've been trying not to get too attached to new pets. Call me a drama princess of Isaak Dinwiddie proportions, but I can't bear losing a dear on again.

Now a stray kitten that never left our backyard, Enrico had grown into a "motherly" cat. I'm glad he was able to touch me two very important things. One, I could have something that resembles, and two, never assume your cat's gender, even if you have thoroughly checked the genitals.

E-mail the author at iperez@inquirer.com.ph

Remembrance of things past

By Bianca Consunji
INQ7 Correspondent

IT WAS THE SUMMER OF 2003, AND MY siblings and I were sitting at the breakfast table with our uncle. My grandfather had just died a couple of months ago, and it was our first fiesta without him.

That particular morning, too tired to cook anything complicated after the major housecleaning we did the night before, we ate down to a meal of fried rice and scrambled omelette with onions and garlic. After a few minutes, our aunt joined us.

We all chatted for a minute or two about the weather, about how dusty the house had gotten since my grandfather died (since no one really went up to the house in between for our weekly visits), and other useless things when my aunt sat down her fork with a clatter and buried her face in her hands. Loud, despondent sobs filled the room as my siblings and I looked at her wordly, not knowing what to do or say.

Finally, my mother...her brother...broke the silence. "What's wrong?"

"It's the food," my aunt said. "This never happened before, not during the fiesta. Cancel food. That never happened when daddy was around."

Although we weren't exactly starving (after all, we were eating a can of overpriced corned beef from a supermarket), our meal was certainly a far cry from the food of fiestas past: save leave from fresh roasted pecans, fat lechon

GROUP hug with the grandchildren

pig belly, stinging thickened with cassava and garlic, hand-cranked ice cream made with carabao's milk, ripe mangoes, and cheese.

Our grandfather died of stomach cancer, despite his healthy lifestyle and diet. All of us doing desperately to all sorts of cures, we tried natural methods (no meat or fish, all organic food, and about 50 pills with every meal) and months in the hospital. None of them worked. Ironically, because of all the newfangled diets we were trying, he was deprived of all the food he cooked—no mercifully, no lasagna dish with cream sauce and cheese, no stinging, no-cooking dipping with fat.

Life with our dad was full of memories of food, of food being cooked and eaten, remembering this, Nikka, my younger sister who had spent a good part of her childhood by his side, followed suit and started sobbing at the table. She was his cooking partner; he cooked and ate, although slow occasionally relished sweet homemade lasagna noodles.

We all got down our forks and spoons. Someone coughed and sipped a glass of water. On the stereo, a newscaster called to children to buy his ice cream under the bright morning sun. Inside the house, the air was still and solid and quiet. All six of us were dressed in black, a strange sight first thing in the morning. We pushed away our plates and went off to our own little corners to mope.

This scene on her quiet name time...scene was weirdly mention something, just any random thing, and immediately, there'd be ways to relate it to our grandfather. One time, a friend went to my house and talked cheerfully about a mate she had seen on a local gig show. I moved in time to see my mom's eyes well up.

"What did I say?" my friend asked, surprised.

"Um, my late was caught on 'Wow Mali' before. He died recently," I explained.

"Oh," she said, sounding like she stepped on someone's pet turtle. "I didn't know. I'm sorry."

How could we explain to people that it wasn't their fault when little memories just popped out of the woodwork? How could we explain that my aunt's breakdown over a bowl of lava-lava and lugaang wasn't because of how it tasted, but because it reminded her of how food before? How could we tell my sister's friends that Tom Sawyer just weren't the same for her anymore, now that her weekly trips to Jollibee after Mass just ended?

For a long time—too long—we were reduced to tears by the smallest things. For the most unexpected moments.

Over a year after, we all sat down to dinner. There were sweets from Baguio for dessert, and, while opening a jar of ube jam, my aunt said, "Hey, remember dad's ube? He was so proud of that."

Silence filled the room for a few seconds. Then someone piped up, "Yeah, and you told him his ube wasn't as good as the one from Good Shepherd. Boy, was he quiet when you said that!"

"Yeah, because I was supposed to say his ube better," my mom said, choking her head at the memory.

Everyone joined in the laughter. After that, it was a little easier to remember things without breaking down every time.

E-mail the author at bianca.consunji@yahoo.com

'You left without saying goodbye'

What is it like to lose a best friend to suicide? The author shares her story through her journal entries

By Ross Villanueva
INQ7 Contributor

March 3, 2004

Goodbye

People aren't supposed to die young. They're supposed to fall in love, get married, have kids, fulfill their dreams, and then pass away.

Friends aren't supposed to die. Not now, not at this age.

I'm mad. I'm mad (cause you left without saying goodbye. You just told me you were on your way home. How could I have known that home meant somewhere I couldn't even call or send you SMS?

I'm mad 'cause you gave up. You gave up when things got rough. You gave up when things stopped going your way.

I'm mad 'cause you chose the easy way out.

I'm going to miss you. I just wish you didn't go so soon.

March 5, 2004

Things remembered

Gin Blossoms and "So Long As It Matters." Bird-hop. Hide. Road trip to Tagaytay. The blue-green Corolla. Boy letting me drive past the town. If I was hardly able to drive. Long conversations on Tuesday nights. My name hailing you. Your name hailing me back. A really bad pirated copy of "Dry Ice." Beeper 1388. Pilot hops. Summers at Dad's when the dog bothered us in the middle of the night. Chess games. Basketball and 21. A single pick-you for every single time I got depressed. Tom Jay nights. That nobby flesh between my fingers. Deciding not to. When we tried and when we let go. Promising to be best friends. 160 kph at Skyway. Hijackers. Street. One dangerously Pisay. Long-distance calls. Every one believing you were recovering.

I don't have pictures of us together. I don't have your cards and letters anymore. I don't have anything to remind me of the 14 years of friendship, except for your SCOTC medal which you made me keep.

It's still there in my bedside drawer. When I go home this weekend, I'll see it again. I'd get to find its cold metal against my fingertips. The gold has tarnished a bit many now, but I remember how you were so proud of it. You told me to keep it until the day comes that you ask for it.

We'll see each other again this Saturday, my best friend. I'll bring it with me and I'll show it to you, how I never forgot my promises. I hope I can show it to your family and tell them they had all the reasons in the world to be proud of you. I hope I can pin it on your shirt and tell you this time has come for me to give it back to you.

Confessions of an ex-thanatophobic

I began to hate nights—for nights meant sleep and sleeping might mean I'd never wake up

By Pam Pastor

Thanatophobia—an abnormal and excessive fear of death

FOR NINE YEARS, MY WORLD was encroached by death. Death stained only in books I devoured, in movies, in newspapers I flipped through.

But one night, when I was almost 20 years old, just before my annual family trip to Baguio, my grandmother's mother passed away. I witnessed relatives sobbing in grief and I watched my great-grandmother's coffin disappear into the ground. Then, in the same week, my grandfather's father died.

Death came crashing through my consciousness, like bricks through a window. Suddenly, death was all too real to me.

The world mourned everywhere. I heard about people dying in their sleep and I started to believe it would happen to me. During the restart, I hated nights—for nights meant sleep and sleeping might mean I'd never wake up.

I came up with rules: I thought was a brilliant plan. If I didn't sleep, then death wouldn't come and take me. Of course, my parents wouldn't agree with my genius idea and so I made sure they didn't find out.

My mother was an insomniac. She stayed up late watching TV, cleaning her jewelry or sewing. I was grateful for her late nights. At least someone was keeping me company even if I had to close my eyes and may tell. I slept in a single bed inside my parents' room and I told them it was my pillow. I needed them to keep myself awake. I turned to them when every room felt really scary to sleep. I would read books at my desk with a flashlight under the covers and when I felt sleepy, I'd go to the only room with real light—my parents' room. I'd pretend to read in their sleep. I watched the light off and pretended to be drowning into sleep.

Some nights I uncontrollably stayed up, reading three or four books—safe, wholesome books like "Sweet Valley Twins," "The Baby-Sitters Club," "Nancy Drew" books that rarely talked death. Other nights I drifted off in sleep and when I woke up, I thanked God profusely for getting me another day.

I feared not just my own death but my parents'. I repeatedly mentally making them promise that we—my parents, my brother and I—would all go together. I didn't want to be left behind.

Many times, my mother would wake up in the middle of the night to find me crouching her face. She would get angry, thinking I was playing with her sense like that.

Instead I was shocking if she was still breathing.

She got mad after too many times that I had to figure out another way to find out if she was still alive. I stayed very still and watched her and when I saw that her chest rose and fell was steadily rising and falling, I breathed a sigh of relief. She was still with me.

My fear of my mother's death became so extreme that I'd throw tantrums whenever she left the house without me. She would mistake me for a mother to my brother, the imagination I thought, there were too many awful things that could happen once she stepped out our door.

I remember one night when my parents left. Regie Dimal passed away—my uncle, other great-grandparents, my grandpa. And while I grieved, my thanatophobia didn't soon back. I had finally realized that death is an inevitable part of life, and one that has to be faced with rationality.

I still worry if my boyfriend takes too long to answer his phone after dropping me off, and I constantly ask friends to text me if they've already safe at their homes after we've partied a night.

But that's no longer my crazy fear of death. I just like knowing that my loved ones are secure.

Sure, I still dread death. But only because I fear I'm too much and I am afraid I still haven't done everything I should and could.

I'm glad my days as a thanatophobic are over but now I know that period of my life left me with lessons.

I realize that knowing there's an end helps us appreciate our days on earth more, knowing that the people around us wouldn't be there forever is a constant reminder for us to value them more. And knowing that the time might fail today, tomorrow, anytime, makes me want to grab every moment and squeeze it for all its worth.

E-mail pastorp@inquirer.com.ph

Growing up in a funeral parlor

By Arlene M. Paredes
24/7 Correspondent

I GREW UP IN A HOUSE attached to a funeral parlor. My elementary classmates knew me as Arlene Paredes. Funeral Homes. Those that I'm nothing it, I was naturally tough about it. But back then, it merely wasn't boring.)

What most people in our little town know is that I was the child who grew up in a not-so-ordinary home to a funeral parlor. What they didn't know, and perhaps what's difficult to believe, is that it was fun for me (only because I was curious and playful) and the experience had so much to do with the way I look at death today.

Because when I was growing up, every day was all Saints' Day and I wanted to drive a funeral car. The staff at HMO's "Ito Pala Yung Kotse" used to talked to people—and like our sister children's parlor. A garage of funeral cars used to be my playground.

Once, when our funeral car was retrieved and there was no one around, I sneaked into the driver's seat and pretended to drive. Of course the car didn't move, but I do remember having fun.

It's both creepy and amusing now that I didn't even bother then about the fact that the car actually carried coffins and human corpses almost every day. No, I wasn't exactly being brave. I was just being a playful kid. After all, I was only six or seven at that. But if anyone would dare me to do it, I'm sure (being naive) I would definitely think twice. To be honest, I'd probably chicken out.

Must-have item

My familiarity with the coffin I saw daily made it look like a certain kind of comfort to me, such that one coffin became a must-have item. Yes, there was a time when I actually wanted a coffin for myself. What happened after I announced a coffin's preference was a form of education for me. I learned what morbid is and not to spit into time.

The house nearest our morning, when my mother had just arrived from the market. I welcomed her with a glass of watermelon juice. There was a very small white coffin on display, and I could fit in there!

My mother was just nosing in through the display room. I pointed to the cute coffin, but was not prepared for her response. She disapproved in my face!

I shouldn't make fun of fitting inside something like that, my mother yelled. I just hated Death to our door, she said. Naturally, I didn't understand her reaction. But I was bound to see her point.

Not long after that day, I got my wish. It was after more than 20 years later when another's usually three eyes. She said I suffered from sonambulism, which I don't remember now. But from then on, my mother would always consult me if that stupid thing I did that almost cost me my life.

How can you take away superstition from death and dying? I guess you can't, because when it comes to preserving your life, you're not supposed to take any chances.

There were only mornings when I woke up to the sound of people sobbing—endless wanting to get it funeral service for their loved ones. There were late nights, too, when I heard gentle knocking on our door, with voices of women weeping in the background. Their son, needed transportation. At home, I would [illegible] 24/7 business. You can never tell anyone to "please come back later."

Death happens anytime. I realized early in life. It can come in the morning, at midnight, or afternoon. Death also comes as a result of many things: murder, accidents, nightmare, long illness, old age. I thought: If I heard all the sad stories I've heard.

Whenever there was a bereaved family in the funeral parlor, I'd immediately ask my father, "Anong dinamdam?" (What's the cause of death?) Sometimes, my father would say to make fun of it. Yet, even as he would say, "Di nakakilabutang burning!" (He forgot to breathe). He was overall heroic to him and revealed to sympathize for the family.

Dressing up the dead

It was always clear to me that he never got used to seeing families crying for their dead. And it was much more [illegible] with when the family was a close relative.

The film "Mandalena (directed by Jeffrey Hendricks)" showed portions of how embalming is done and how the dead are dressed up after the procedure. I was up everything is "Mandalena's" funeral parlor scenes was plausible. Although, as a whole, [illegible] is crazy, the embalmer took a liking to weird guy. He's just a regular person doing something scary. He—we would allow me to watch the embalming, believe. And I was curious and I had to watch.

The funeral parlor's garage was a home of abundant in my sister's house, and passed through time passing frequently, and, indeed, I was touched I was beautiful. I was touched I was wrong, because I just couldn't be found alone with a stranger's corpse!

One afternoon, when I was going home from my sister's house, I was greeted by a sight I didn't know how to handle. There was one unidentified corpse lying on the garage, with no one around. The people from the funeral parlor were in the middle of some dimension outside, so I had to hail one my way to our house. I made a mental note to pray that I wouldn't be caught dead when it's my turn to die.

I must note, too, that the first corpses I ever handled was the one carried by the funeral parlor. I shot no less doing photos, and encountered no frightening details, like food.

I was already 16 when I left our house that stood beside a funeral parlor. Now, over 10 years later, I don't think I can ever go through that experience again. A lot of things have already changed to become familiar, and that means I no longer feel comfortable about working amid coffins, let alone seeing dead or them, or seeing inside it. In every case, or calling a funeral parlor's camera, or staying for over a minute in garage for hearses.

But some things don't change. He is, however, I still look at death the way I learned to look at it in my childhood. It is that which happens to a person after. It's fine.

"Hoop-easy," a pun on "hoop-horay," is often used to describe the funeral parlor business. Technically, however, no business looks for the dead, because businesses need people who are alive and can pay for them.

The funeral parlor doesn't owe have to work on the "hoop" part. Business comes to them. Parents are dying. I know and my experience about the business is to literally just for the bereaved.

E-mail: cyplanson@gmail.com

Love, loss and tenderness

By Nita Mark M. Salden
24/7 Correspondent

WHILE LOVE IS A POPULAR topic in songs, death is something we a lot of songwriters excite about. Blame it on the especially gloomy melody that one would come up with, or just hope the lack of inspiration. Death isn't something your favorite boyband or pop princess would want to talk about.

But there are exceptions.

These five gems are modest masterpieces—if you can relate to them.

'One Sweet Day'

Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men

This song was inspired by the death of Michael's "Usher Legend," Def Jeppard promoter Steve Clark, in 1991. While brainstorming with Boyz II Men on a possible collaboration, the duo discovered that the group had written a tribute to their manager who was murdered while they were on tour, but sang plus theirs became "One Sweet Day."

'Tears in Heaven'

Eric Clapton

Co-written (with Will Jennings) and sung by Clapton himself, the ballad speaks of the pain he felt when Conor, his 4-year-old son, fell from a 53rd story window in his mother's New York City condominium and died. That grief led him to write the song included in his CD "Unplugged"—that would win Song of the Year at the 1992 Grammys and get featured on the "Rush" soundtrack.

'When September Ends'

Green Day

When Green Day fused vocalist Billie Joe Armstrong was 10 years old, his father, a jazz musician and minor league baseball catcher, died of lung cancer. During the inspiration for the hit song that has also become connected with the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, the death of Johnny Kimmie and even Hurricane Katrina, drumming has never really recovered from the loss. In some live performances, he still cries when singing this song.

'Hurt'

Christina Aguilera

Wanting to tackle the subject of death in her music, the singer asked collaborator Linda Perry, who lost her father, to help her write a song about losing someone. But because the outcome seemed too personal, Aguilera changed some of the lyrics so that more people could relate to the song. The music video premiered at the 2006 MTV Video Music Awards last August, with a stream theme. Go figure.

'Together Again'

Janet Jackson

Bound to Janet's "The Velvet Rope" album, the song was her tribute to friends who died of AIDS. Unlike most songs about death, the lyrics are hopeful instead of morbid, and the melody upbeat and very danceable.

'I'll Be Missing You'

Puff Daddy featuring Faith Evans and 112

A big, big hit in 1997, this song was Puff Daddy's tribute—he ripped the whole piece to believe Biel Boy Records artist The Notorious B.I.G., who was murdered in March 9, 1997, sampling the vocal group 112 and Notorious B.I.G.'s wife Faith Evans. On using sampled the Police's "Every Breath You Take"—which wasn't about death. Although the song was completed years before the rights were granted, it won Every Breath You Take," King of the Police's permission in performance of the song at the 1997 Video Music Awards in 1997.

'A Place Nearby'

Lene Marlin

This song from Lene's album "Playing My Game" speaks of the last words of someone who just passed away. The chorus goes "Heaven is a place nearby/ so don't worry/ I'll be waiting/ I wanna ask you not to cry/ I'll always be by your side/..." Supported by an angelic voice and an achingly classic melody, the song is a certified tearjerker.

'The Crossroads'

Bone Thugs N Harmony

Originally titled "Tribute," this song got its name and title only when the group and their producers consult the melody for radio. A tribute to the late Eazy-E, "The Crossroads" was huge in 1996, and completed a portion of "Thug Brothers" Tribute We Say It Again (Vol. 1 and 2)."

Celebrating life and death in prose

By Angela N. Ignacio
24/7 Correspondent

"That's the kind of death that happens me. The shadow of death allows one sleep at the region of life and before you know it, everything's dark and you can't see and the people around you think of you or more dead than alive. I hate that."—Hideki, "Norwegian Wood"

HARUKI MURAKAMI AND RAnana Yoshimoto, two of Japan's best-loved contemporary writers, usually have death and dying as important themes in their novels, but they're worse through the stories in such a way that they tug at your heartstrings and make you reflect on how you're living your life. With them, it's not just about the morbid and the supernatural, but also about confronting your inner demons, learning the darkness to your closet, or making peace with glasses of relationships past.

"Untitled and Hard Luck" is written in Yoshimoto's trademark subtle, minimalist writing style. The book of short stories spans a welcome relief from the heavy dealing with death and the tumultuous emotions that go with it.

In "Untitled," an unnamed woman goes on a mountain hiking trip on her ex-lover Chizuru's death anniversary and ends up in the middle of a series of strange events. In her mission to find out why she's involved, she realizes that her feelings for Chizuru (and vice versa) go way beyond the supernatural, and it just maybe hold the key to saving her from losing more than just "more sweet memories.

Meanwhile, "Hard Luck" tells the heartrending tale of a young woman whose sister Ruri suddenly goes into a coma after suffering from a medical hemorrhage. Yoshimoto's characters are always [illegible] struggles with her grief day by day, and it doesn't help that Gakuji, the oddball older brother of Ruri's former fiancé, comes to visit her sister in an effort to make up for his own guilty conscience. He gives voice to Chizuru's thoughts, and feels torn between her "duty" to Ruri and her growing affection for Gakuji. Ultimately, she makes peace with the fact that death is a part of life—that just because a loved one's life has ended, it doesn't mean yours has to be, either.

At the exploration goes, but a more. Yoshimoto's short novel leaves so much unsaid, with the author's simple, poignant words gently prodding the readers to fill the gaps with their own emotions and experiences. Both stories touch us to remember not have our loved ones had died, but how they had lived and touched our lives.

"Norwegian Wood" is the critically acclaimed 1987 novel that catapulted Murakami to cult status. Unlike his other novels, however, surrealism even among from his use of love-drama themes and dishes out a seeming of-age story that's replete with [illegible] issues, especially issues of sex and morality.

Set in Oct. 30s, a time of political [illegible] unrest, the story revolves around young Toru Watanabe and his personality-crazy girlfriend Naoko. When his best friend Kizuki commits suicide, his life is thrown out of kilter, and he goes away to college to escape from the painful incident. Two years later, he bumps into Kizuki's former girlfriend, Naoko, in the same city. United by their grief, they soon develop a whirlwind romance—but Naoko's mentally ill, and she soon slips into a state of depression. Toru is forced to make a decision that will change his life for the better—or beyond him for the rest of his life.

Peppered with jazzy humor and jaded, suicidal characters, "Norwegian" effortlessly captures the [illegible] that young adults go through as they make sense out of life and death.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie D. Velarde

OPENING TODAY

Kaleldo (Summer Heat)

Elaine Jobaney Bolgado, Cherry Pie Picache, Angel Aquino, Julianna Peñaranda, Allan Paule

Directed by Brillante "Dante" Mendoza

The filmmakers' director's second outing had its world premiere at the third Busan International Film Festival, under the Entry section. Also scheduled are screenings in Toronto, Rawaii and Cairo, according to the festival executive program, the Pampanga film, which was graded B by the Cinema Evaluation Board, tells the overlapping stories of three daughters suffering from "paternal hardness." Fely Lualo of the festival secretariat said it has lasting "lyrics, narrative and cinematic ... further elevated by outstanding performances from its cast, paced by the magnificent Pinedas." Inquirer columnist Nestor U. Torre agrees: "Kaleldo dissipates into lax anecdotes ... Energy arises only from from her performance [which is] oddly three-dimensional and unforgivably conflicted."

Marie Antoinette

Starr Stevens Dunst, Jason Schwartzman, Steve Coogan, Judy Davis

Directed by Sofia Coppola

Bronzed and spoiled all the Cannes film fest, this period drama is touted as a "revisionist" take on France's most reviled (possibly misunderstood) teen queen. Kyle Smith of *New York Post* describes it this way: "Enacting Coco Cola in the unfrozen, Coppolan detailing [film] ... results in writer's wince. [The director's] mastering of the language of cinema is a delight." Peter Travers of *Rolling Stone* raves: "She gives vibrancy and seductiveness to the emerging woman ... With lyrical soundtrack-and-images sets, the movie's luscious world to get lost in. It's sybaritic." The *Tokyo Weekly* acclaims: "It tuffles and fills. It's not soundtrack pop biopic ... It has none of the high spirits that Jeff Tarr in 'Basquiat' [a] goofy rhythm ... The script is semi-bookish." Exclusively at Ayala Multi-Cinemas.

TV's cool grannies turn 1

Text and photos by Nini Valera

AGE IS A STATE OF mind, according to Baby D'Rivera, who plays a cool grandma in the QTV 11 sitcom "Gimme Lada Ika."

"Before, when you turned 40, you were considered ancient. But these days, with all the beauty aids and procedures available to women..."

Baby admitted that she had her eye bags surgically removed, and her stomach liposuctioned.

"That's because I like to read, and I couldn't read with cataracts."

Celia Rodriguez described Baby as courageous to have gone under the knife to have her face done. "Me, I just have the usual fears," Celia said. "Imagine if all of us had our faces stretched. We'd all look Ethiopian."

But Sheldon (they still are—Celia, Baby, Bella Flores and Gloria Sevilla. Together they make sweet as grandmothers on the program.

So one would reveal her real age, however.

"It's 32," said Gloria.

"Forty-V," said Celia.

"Best guesses, please," said Bella.

No some guesses here, except for a brief reliance with Gloria, who couldn't recall exactly how many grandchildren she had.

"Eleven? Live 14," she told la. sisters for reassurance. "I still have to count."

"I don't have grandchildren. Some my own kids," volunteered Celia. "I have lots from my nephews and nieces. I have three children, and none of them want to marry. My eldest is a doctor in Seattle [Washington]."

Baby, who joked about being famous in the daughter of Pete Lacson or the mother of Rico Puyat, said she has five grandchildren.

Bella described fashionably on her behalf. "Yes, I have grandchildren," she finally owned up.

The lolicit was part of the dinner's first anniversary celebration last Sunday. It has lasted going and the fun's were complaining.

"They should have made pulutan [food]."

MARY D'RIVERA

CELIA RODRIGUEZ

Not one of the QTV sitcom hosts would say exactly how old she is

FOXTROT — By BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN — By JESS ABREN

BABY BLUES — By JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — By PH JUNIOR

NUTS — By PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEHOATE — By ELIZABETH CHEMELLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY — By LIAN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — By STEVEN MANLAPAZ

BIRD MACHINE — By MARK ABREN

MANDRIOSHOE — By JOHNO TEJIDO

TULOOK — By PAPI LINO TATUM PALAMBRING

BEH — By DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

			1		7			
		1				4		
	2		4		5		9	
3		6				1		8
				8				
5		9				2		4
	7		8		9		2	
		5				7		
			6		1			

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2006 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	2	3	6	7	5	9	8	4
8	5	9	3	4	8	2	1	7
7	4	6	9	1	2	8	5	3
2	7	4	8	5	3	1	6	9
5	3	1	7	6	9	4	2	8
9	8	6	1	2	4	7	3	5
6	1	2	5	3	7	8	9	6
3	8	7	2	9	6	5	4	1
4	9	5	4	8	1	3	7	2

Digital movie-makers challenge critic

Front page D4

it. Hover when you can. Do not delay. If you can finish every thing in a day, why not? Work is the enemy of the Slave.

III. Your attitude towards filmmaking should be that of an amateur—half serious, playful, light...not heavy, thus without baggage. There are no mistakes, the incorrect but thing is you know.

IV. Utilize all resources within your movement. If you have a knack for music, score your own soundtrack. If you have editing skills, cook your own screenplay. If you have money, invest in you.

V. Work within a minimized budget. Artificial lighting is not a necessity. The story is king—everything else follows.

VI. Work entirely on your form.

VII. Forget ... the star system. Work only with those who are willing to work with you, and those who are dedicated to the craft.

VIII. Work with humble, passionate and resourceful people.

IX. If you are alone, do not worry. Digital technology has enabled the cave to an option.

X. Create first...release later.

SHANG CINEPLEX

MALL CLOSED

MALL CLOSED

MALL CLOSED

MALL CLOSED

PREMIERE TICKETING MALL CLOSED

Catch the Cineplex Special!

MALL CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 1, 2006

Shang to Play

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

687-6963 GUARANTEED SEATS

NOW SHOWING

"THE PRESTIGE' IS PURE MAGIC!"

"A BRILLIANTLY ENTERTAINING THRILLER. YOU'LL WANT TO SEE IT AGAIN THE SECOND IT'S OVER."

"AN ENTHRALLING TWIST-AND-THRILLER. NOW TICKETS AT EVERY TURN!"

THE PRESTIGE

OPENS TODAY

You are cordially invited to the most delicious romantic comedy of the season!

CAKE

MTRCB PG-13

NO. 1 IN THE U.S.
NO. 1 IN THE PHILIPPINES!

Ten years ago a door was opened and a prodigy was born. This halloween, what was entrusted will be unleashed.

2

THE GRUDGE 2

FROM SAM RAIMI
THE DIRECTOR OF SPIDERMAN 1 & 2

glorietta · Greenbelt · Town · Ayala Center Cebu · Market! Market! · Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

TFX

G1	1 THE GRUDGE 2	2 THE MARINE	3 BOY	4 KALBO				
G4	1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION					
	4 MARIE ANTOINETTE	5 CAKE	6 THE MARINE	7 THE PRESTIGE				
GB1	1 THE PRESTIGE	2 THE MARINE						
GB3	1 THE PRESTIGE	2 THE MARINE						
	3 THE GRUDGE 2	4 MARIE ANTOINETTE	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION					
ATC	1 THE MARINE	2 CAKE						
	3 THE PRESTIGE	4 WORLD TRADE CENTER	5 THE GRUDGE 2					
ACC	1 THE DANGELIST	2 BLOOD DIAMOND	3 BARNARD	4 TALLARENA NIGHTS				
M2	1 THE MARINE	2 BOY						
	3 KALBO	4 THE GRUDGE 2	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION					

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	TOWN
Art in Desire on the Spot Contest October 28, 2006	MayKabo Halloween Event October 28, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Shopping Fair October 27 to 29, 2006	Halloween Special October 28, 2006

Greenbelt — Day Floating Exhibit, October 25 to November 1, 2006

Christian Dior — Experience Philippine Artistry that Wows! Dior's ALWAYS at SM MOA's Shoe Theater - October 9 to 31, 2006

Ayala Museum — 19th - 20th Century Philippine Art from Ayala Museum Collection. On going until January 2007. For inquiries, please call 757-7141 to 51 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

CYBER SUNDAY

CHAMPION JOHN CENA — Raw's WWE Champion

CHAMPION KING BOOKER — SmackDown's World Heavyweight Champion

CHAMPION BIG SHOW — ECW's World Champion

Watch the triple threat match at GLORIETTA 1 CINEMA 3

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 6 | 7 PM

Ayala Cinemas · Jack · SM Cinema

Bazaar! Bazaar!

Christmas comes early at Market! Market! Get a Christmas Bag worth 500 at Christmas Bazaar!

Buy the Christmas card, drop card & get a freebie.
Present P500 worth of coupon at the Market! Market! Concierge and get a free Christmas Bag.**
From Oct. 31 to Nov. 5, 2006.

TV's cool ...

Pretzel p3

one of it already," said Celia.

Her one of theirs seemed to be watching her date.

"So, fab for me," said Celia. "I eat anything like."

Age, it seems, has countless advantages.

"We've had big class at our parent in the show. They can't see anymore," said Bobby laughing.

"We have Angel Locsin today," said Celia. "Last week, we had Gene Montano."

"Yes, there are many advantages to being parang tabi," said Celia. "But I don't know what they are. I'm not pregnancy."

Another advantage is the library to speak their mind.

Said Celia of a young starlet, "She could have gotten more from two months but she did not. Duh!

TV's p3

GLORIA SEVILLA

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FACT: THE BIGGEST AND DEADLIEST CARNIVOROUS SNAKES ARE FOUND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
–The Guinness Book of World Records

BIGGER THAN 'ANACONDA'
MORE LETHAL THAN 'SNAKES ON A PLANE'
OPENS TODAY
EATEN ALIVE
BOA

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MALL
PROMENADE

POWER PLANT CINEMA

From the Producer of "SCARY MOVIE"
OPENS NOV. 8
Too nice?
Too honest?
Too you?
Help is on the way!
BILLY BOB THORNTON JON HEDER AND BEN STILLER
SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS

HOLIDAY FUN STARTS ON NOV 8
SANTA CLAUS vs JACK FROST
'TWAS THE FIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
ESCAPE CLAUSE

ALL ADS ARE ADMITTED
OPEN SEASON
NOW SHOWING
ALSO IN MAX 3D
DISTRIBUTED BY COLUMBIA PICTURES

ROUNDUP

'Probe' on death

TOMAS 'PROBE' ...

...

...

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail us at ...
Text us your feedback ...

Digital movie-makers challenge critic

Compiled by Malou R. Cruz

(Conclusion)

HE CAPTURE THE CONCLUSION TO HIS TALK digital movie-making is actually harmful to local cinema, as claimed by Tikoy Buencamino, the soap opera film critic and professor at the University of the Philippines Film Institute.

JIM LIBIRAN (Ditsuan winner for his screenplay "Tattoo" based, ABC 5 Pedrito Abistado, screw-downcountry student; journalist; members Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of the Philippines):

I'm not an expert in this field. I am still a student, a filmmaker wannabe, a 1983 addict. Tikoy is from [unclear] a top professor in UP when I took the undergrad Film 100 class as a prerequisite for my Mastered subject(s). Tikoy is a teacher and a friend. I don't really know if he is a fan of Philippine cinema, but he is absolutely devoting so many Philippine films, old and new, as his own.

If Mr. Buencamino's view that 35mm is better than digital, I don't really care what... I'm using as long as it hits the target. To say that one is better than the other depends on **where you are in the scheme of things. The** industry, for decades, has produced 35mm movies **that are just as wonky as the** sex videos on mpeg or 3gp. Some may argue that, at least, the former looks better on screen, but the other hand, no-only independent movies, but top-star filmmakers, her own Hollywood, have brought us digital masterpieces. Pure spoken-word artist Lionel de Wet's **[illegible]** was shot: "Well, no point over, some Indians." That I think, is also Jon Red's point in his triple Bayanan Entertainment, Inc. 35... [illegible]

The fact is, given the chance, many filmmakers would grab the opportunity to shoot in 35mm. But rather than wait for that 35mm guess to fall from the tree, they pushed on, expressing themselves, honing their craft or, heck, experimenting and sometimes just goofing off with the cheaper, readily-available digital video cam. 35mm or perish.

The moment is here. Filmmakers will not **stop making movies just because films needs** is out of their financial reach. Movies will be **made with or without film. Are they going** digital because it's the easy way out? Recently, **are our 20 masterpieces by 20 directors** in the omnibus film "Imahe Nasyon." What, if not all, were done using digital cameras, not only videocams, but high-[illegible]—still [unclear] Video. Digital was formed precisely to explore these possibilities.

'Film is dead (please omit flowers); it's dead as long as the economy is dead'

Does that mean Prof. Buencamino is wrong? Nope. It means that, maybe, the "Downside of Digital" was not classified against indie filmmakers; [maybe it was] an attack against big players in the film industry who continues to dangle their expensive film stocks and equipment way out of young filmmakers' reach.

If in whether digital movies could "have the [unclear] and [unclear] standards"? Jumping in my head right now are 300-way replies, but I will go with this: By all means, let us present the audience's audio-visual standards. That may be the only standard in the Filipino psyche that hasn't been eroded.

If in the effect of the boom in digital film making on the country's moving industry? I see **you were filmmakers** upgrading their masterpieces into mapped-up editing stations. I see high-school students silently but artistically expressing themselves using off-the-shelf consumer-grade digital toys. I see mobile theaters in the barangays—guerilla theater circuits complimenting guerilla filmmaking. I see MTRCB-banned digital films on dirt-long peddled like illegal drugs in the streets: "Buy this, and free your mind." I see the Hollywood Bowl being walled off by Quiapo's digital phrases. [In fact] I see the pirates stalls in Quiapo turning into the new digital Underground cave-painting gorilla filmmakers, a real market. I don't know how empty mall cinema houses will figure into that. I don't know if big producers will accept this "emergent movements" and turn it into a new revenue stream. I haven't heard any loud booms that signals the coming of "new cinema golden age." Maybe there shouldn't be any explosions, no giant booms. Maybe it will just come in the form of kids playing with their digital toys, experimenting with their editing box...and showing off to friends. Digital amateurs, tens of thousands of them. Wouldn't that be cool thing?

ERWIN DELA CRUZ ("Pinkog Kings," "Pasiam Ahing Balahadyan," "Mandirumasta," "Singby Boy," "Cumbi Sippers," member, IFCP):

While some of the points raised by Buencamino are valid, his statements should be taken as subjective, case-in-case observations rather than generalizations. In 2000, I wrote "Digital Ideologs." [I assume] that digital is good for Philippine [and Bisaya, Ilonggo] Cinema. For six years now, this essay has circulated in international film festivals and has been published in Italy, Spain, and Austria. Here are excerpts:

Digital Dekalogs

A Manifesto for a Filmless Philippines

Film is dead. It is dead as long as the economy is dead, where public taste and creativity are dead, where the imagination of multinational movie companies is dead. At millions of pesos per film production, there is not going to be a lot of happy days for the genuine filmmaker, the true artist who wants to make movies, not brainless displays of bravura and gimmick.

But technology has saved us. Digital film, with its qualities of mobility, flexibility, intimacy, and accessibility, is the apt medium for a Third World Country like the Philippines.

Film is dead. Please omit flowers.

I. Economics: A camera of celluloid film including processing costs around P1,500. A minute of digital film costs around P5. Do the math.

II. The only way to make a film is to shoot

[illegible]

Opening Today

Penelope Cr

Cake

Stars: Heather Graham, David Sutcliffe, Sandra Oh, Tate Riggs, Cheryl Hines

Directed by: Sirkar Lazarus

This paranoid bridezilla (Graham) in friends' weddings agrees to edit her dad's ailing bridal magazine and name it into a top seller along the way, she also falls in love and is swayed by two men. The Cinematic Intelligence Agency website calls it "a Three Pass entry with an outrageous, charming, flawed heroine. It's about growing up." Hear late of Quelpart's Music Reviews thinks it's "an independent comedy, but very conventional in its delivery ... (It's) breezy, never really laugh-out-loud funny. It'll is a decent film, but like most endeavors, it's not in every way." Sarah Rowland of Montreal Mirror is flipped: "Fans of Heather's body won't be disappointed ... She's in her dewy-eyed bombshell mode here, sporting a slither-ore yet equally revealing getup in every scene."

The Marine

Stars: John Cena, Robert Patrick, Kelly Carlson, Anthony Ray

Directed by: John Bonito

A WWE superstar crashes (Cena) cromes over to action movies, playing a maverick soldier who "was discharged for disobeying orders, in save colleagues bold homage to scenes in Iraq," sounds like an updated Rambo? Frank Scherb of Hollywood Reporter notes it up to "an unexpected formula that's frustrated the sort of bare-bones plot that has served as a vehicle for Chuck Norris and Jean Leydon of theirs comments that it 'will trigger a wrong sense of deja vu for anyone who recalls the dopeish, slam-bang action fare of the 1970s." Mark Olsen of Los Angeles Times echoes their sentiments: "The scenes-to-cut-to-story vehicle seems left over from the 1980s ... a ridiculous throwaway that's at least smart enough not to take itself too seriously."

Ben

Stars: Stephanie Bennett, Kimberly Richardson, Sheba Lewis-[illegible], Olympia Dukakis[illegible]

Directed by: Chanirose Meangsuwan

A horrifying import from Thailand, this film was originally titled "Boy ... Ngoo yuk!" A teenaged gang members for a missing friend to the rainforest. A valid story, future the fun pak to seek refuge in a cave where a hungry giant reptilian monster awaits. Authorized of Bangkok Post notes more than chiller "looks and feels more like a Sci-Fi channel production than a theatrical creature feature. ... (There's) a pretty cool snake death scene, but that's about it."

Invincible

Stars: Mark Wahlberg, Greg Kinnear, Elizabeth Banks, Kevin Conway

Directed by: Ericson Core

This Disney sports flick is based on the true-life story of 30-year-old [unemployed] teacher Vince Papale (Wahlberg), who, against all odds, becomes a wide receiver a professional football player for the Eagles with the help of a tenacious coach (Kinnear). Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly hails it as "heartfelt and gratifying ... a grid-iron Working," while Wesley Morris of Boston Journal [over-used praises the film's] emote, who "does an excellent job capturing Philadelphia in the 1970s, a gritty, desperate time." Sean Penney of Philadelphia Weekly dissent: "This a shoddy, point-by-the-numbers filmmaking, with one of the year's most woefully underwritten screenplays."

Top 10 Movies

Biggest cut

for "Saw III"

LOS ANGELES—Halloween came early at movie theaters as "Saw III" sliced up the competition with a $164.3 million debut, the best opening yet for the gory horror franchise.

Lionsgate's "Saw III" took over as No. 1, bumping off Disney's dueling-magicians saga "The Prestige," which dipped to third place with $9.6 million.

Martin Scorsese's mob tale "The Departed" took in $9.8 million to place second for the chilly-weather weekend.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations, official readers: 1) "Saw III," $34.3M; 2) "The Departed," $9.8M; 3) "The Prestige," $9.6M; 4) "Flags of Our Fathers," $6.3M; 5) "Open Season," $6.1M; 6) "Flicka," $5M; 7) "Man of the Sun," $4.7M; 8) "The Grudge 2," $2.8M; 9) "Marie Antoinette," $2.65M; 10) "Running With Scissors," $2.55M.

AP